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Jan. 22, 2003, 12:33AM

Irked Bush chafes at U.N. opposition

Powell: Iraq inspections won't work

By BENNETT ROTH

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WASHINGTON -- President Bush expressed impatience with growing opposition at the United Nations to confronting Iraq, as Secretary of State Colin Powell declared Tuesday that more weapons inspections "will not work."

Bush appeared frustrated by the latest warning from the French that they want to give inspectors more time and may veto any U.N. resolution seeking war with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"Surely we have learned how this man deceives and delays," said Bush. "He's giving people the runaround."

The president added that the debate over Iraq "looks like a rerun of a bad movie, and I'm not interested in watching it."

With U.N. chief inspector Hans Blix scheduled to give a key assessment of the weapons situation with Baghdad on Monday, the White House has stepped up its public relations efforts to persuade a skeptical international community and nervous Americans about the likely need to confront Iraq.

Powell, meeting with a small group of reporters, dismissed calls by a number of countries to allow the inspectors several more months to scour Iraq for signs of weapons of mass destruction.

"The danger is people will just allow the process to drag on and there will be no resolution," he said, adding that Iraq has had a dozen years to comply with U.N. resolutions banning it from developing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Powell, a moderate who last year won out over administration hawks who wanted to bypass U.N. involvement in Iraq, said it was now clear that Saddam was hindering the inspectors' task.

"The question isn't how much longer do you need for inspections," he said. "The inspections will not work."

In the interview, Powell also rejected a report that suggested some White House aides were advocating that the U.S. seize Iraqi oil fields in the event of an occupation and use them to undercut Saudi Arabia's domination of the oil market. "The oil of Iraq belongs to the Iraqi people," he said. "It will not be exploited for the United States' own purpose."

Powell could not say who would gain control of the currently state owned oil fields in Iraq if Saddam is defeated. But he added, "We will follow religiously international law, which gives clear guidance in respect to the responsibilities of an occupying power."

Powell also said he was caught off guard by the remarks of French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, who on Monday used a Security Council meeting on terrorism to warn the United States about rushing into war.

"What they said was we should let this process continue, but it is not clear to me how long they want it to continue or whether they are serious about bringing it to a conclusion at some time," said Powell, who added that on Tuesday he had a "candid and forthright and honest conversation" with the French minister.

But the French have been joined by other U.N. members, including Germany, Russia and China, who also say they believe the inspectors have been making progress and need more time.

Blix said earlier this week that the Iraqi regime had promised more cooperation, including urging its scientists to submit to a private interview with inspectors.

Nevertheless, Powell warned that war may be looming despite U.N. reluctance and last weekend's demonstrations in Washington and other U.S. cities that brought out tens of thousands of Americans opposed to war.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:43PM

Governor Perry promises 'a better tomorrow ... intended for all'

By CLAY ROBISON

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AUSTIN -- Vowing to limit state government while broadening opportunities for Texans, Gov. Rick Perry launched his own full term in the state's top office Tuesday.

The outdoor inaugural ceremony, which Perry shared with fellow Republican David Dewhurst, the new lieutenant governor, was heavy on color and tradition. But it was almost anticlimactic, coming more than two years after Perry had initially stepped into the job and after last year's election slugfest.

An 18-year veteran of state government who grew up on a farm near Paint Creek, Perry said the "promise of a better tomorrow is a promise intended for all."

But he made it clear that this legislative session, which faces a nearly \$10 billion revenue shortfall, wasn't going to try to cure everyone's ills.

"The lesson I've learned is that a government that attempts to do all things for all people does few things well," Perry said.

Calling for state government to "follow the example of millions of Texas families," he vowed once again to balance a new state budget by limiting spending, not raising state taxes.

The governor said advocates of state programs and services, whom he called "special interests," may loudly clamor for increased appropriations. But everyday men and women, he added, "are wise enough to know that it is not the size of government that defines the compassion of our people, but the priorities we set."

His priorities, he said, will be reforming insurance regulation and lowering rates, making additional investments in education, improving access to health care and protecting natural resources.

The governor didn't spell out how those goals would be accomplished in the face of a revenue crunch, but he earlier had said he may consider raising some state fees to meet spending needs.

Dewhurst, whose main job will be presiding over the state Senate, shared Perry's views of fiscal restraint. But, delivering a small part of his speech in Spanish, the new lieutenant governor promised to work with everyone to "open the doors of opportunity for all."

Noting that his father was killed by a drunken driver when he was only 2, Dewhurst said he had made it to the state's No. 2 office because Texas is a "land of opportunities." He made a fortune as a Houston businessman before running for public office.

A former state land commissioner beginning only his second elective office, Dewhurst said he was "absolutely committed to doing everything I can to make sure that the millions of other Texans out there can fulfill their dreams too."

He also promised the state leadership will "move a pro-family, pro-growth agenda for the state of Texas that's going to benefit every hard-working Texan."

Perry, 52, and Dewhurst, 57, join new House Speaker Tom Craddick, 59, to give Republicans control of all three of the statehouse's main leadership positions for the first time in 130 years.

Several thousand people -- a small crowd by recent inaugural standards -- attended the ceremonies on a warm, sunny day on the state Capitol's south lawn, where they also were entertained by the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. About half of the crowd was legislators, other dignitaries and invited guests -- including political contributors, who widely applauded Perry's pledge to limit government.

Perry, Dewhurst, their families and friends gathered on a covered, red-white-and-blue platform on the Capitol steps. A huge Texas flag was draped overhead.

The white-uniformed Ross Volunteers of Texas A&M, the governor's official honor guard, formed a saber arch for the platform entourage, and four F-16 jets flew over the Capitol as the officials arrived.

Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Phillips administered the oaths of office separately to Dewhurst and Perry, using a Bible once used by Texas revolutionary hero Sam Houston.

Immediately after taking his oath, Perry was honored with a booming, traditional 19-gun salute by the Texas National Guard.

The guns were supposed to have been fired simultaneously with a flyover of two C-130 cargo planes, the type of aircraft that Perry flew as an Air Force pilot. But the program ran longer than scheduled, and the C-130s flew over as Dewhurst, whose address preceded the governor's oath, was still speaking.

Although the two leaders seemed to speak mainly from the same page, Dewhurst seemed more eager than Perry to tackle one particularly difficult issue this session -- an overhaul of the controversial "Robin Hood" school finance system, which forces wealthier school districts to share tax revenue with poorer

schools.

"Both our tax system and our school finance system must be reformed," Perry said. "All the answers may not be found this legislative session, but we will work until they are found, and these issues will be addressed during this administration."

Perry's four-year term will include the 2005 legislative session as well as the current session.

"Together we will be innovative in addressing school finance," Dewhurst said. "The time for study is over. `Robin Hood' is broken."

Perry, the former lieutenant governor, first became governor in December 2001 after George W. Bush resigned midterm to become president.

Perry won a full term of his own in November, spending \$27 million to beat wealthy Laredo businessman Tony Sanchez, the Democratic nominee, who spent more than \$60 million.

Although Perry is now governor in his own right, Bush's shadow lingers. One Capitol staffer was overheard to remark that Perry's inaugural crowd was much smaller than the crowd that came to Bush's second gubernatorial inauguration in 1999, anticipating that Bush would soon launch a presidential campaign.

And Perry borrowed a page from Bush's book when he promoted volunteerism. He urged Texans to assist crime victims, act as mentors to children and aid welfare recipients.

"Our blessings are never made full until shared with others," he said. "This effort will not supersede existing charities but will lead citizens to them. It will not replace the role of government but augment it."

Dewhurst devoted part of his address to his 83-year-old mother, Martha Wing of Houston, who is ailing and was unable to attend.

His voice breaking, he thanked his mother -- then a single, working mom -- for teaching him and his siblings as children "to always work hard and to always do the right thing."

"I think in her own way Mom captures the essence of Texas," Dewhurst added. "Here in Texas, if you have a dream and you're willing to work hard enough, you can realize your dream."

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:59PM

American killed in ambush outside U.S. base in Kuwait

By PATRICK E. TYLER
New York Times

KUWAIT CITY -- At least one gunman opened fire Tuesday morning on a car carrying two American civilian defense workers near the main U.S. military base here, killing one of them and severely wounding the other.

U.S. and Kuwaiti officials described the ambush as a terrorist attack. It was the third such shooting incident since last fall when U.S. forces began deploying to Kuwait on Iraq's southern border in preparation for a possible invasion to remove Saddam Hussein. About a third of the country has been closed off to accommodate the U.S. buildup.

The U.S. Embassy identified the American who was killed as Michael Rene Pouliot, 46, of San Diego, the passenger in the tan Toyota SUV. He was an executive vice president of Tapestry Solutions Corp., a San Diego software development company that produces military modeling and simulation training software for the U.S. military.

Tapestry Solutions identified the wounded man as David Caraway, a senior software engineer for the company, The Associated Press reported. He underwent surgery at Razi Hospital here for six bullet wounds, three of them in the chest. He was in stable condition after surgery, hospital authorities said.

"The president's heart goes out to the families affected by this attack," the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said in Washington. "It's a reminder of the dangers and risks servicemen and women face every day in service to our country."

Pouliot's stepmother, Fern Pouliot of Jacksonville, Fla., said he was the father of two teenage daughters and was "a very considerate person, an excellent husband, an excellent father and an excellent provider."

Police said that officers arrived shortly after the shooting, which occurred at 9:15 a.m., but that the suspected terrorists, who fired 24 shots from a Kalashnikov rifle, had escaped by car. A search was under way Tuesday night. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The two Americans may have stopped for a traffic signal at a desert intersection when the shooting occurred about three miles from Camp Doha.

The attack was also a troubling reminder to U.S. military authorities that the Arabian desert is no longer the friendly territory it was a decade ago when U.S. and allied forces liberated Kuwait after it was brutally occupied by the Iraqi army.

While many Kuwaitis and other Arabs welcome U.S. intervention aimed at toppling the regime in Baghdad, a significant number of Islamic extremists and their sympathizers oppose U.S. policy in the Middle East and see an attack on Iraq as unjustified.

The site of the shooting was flanked on one side by a housing complex, businesses and a McDonald's restaurant. The desert side of the road, however, was bounded by border shrubbery and trees that provided the hiding place from which the assailant or assailants fired, leaving a litter of shell casings behind.

In October, two Kuwaiti extremists attacked U.S. Marines during a training exercise on Failaka Island. One Marine was killed, and both Kuwaiti gunmen were shot dead in return fire. Kuwait authorities arrested 15 members of what they described as a terrorist cell that was planning attacks on other U.S. targets.

The following month, a Kuwaiti policeman opened fire on two U.S. soldiers driving between Camp Doha, the U.S. military headquarters here, and Arifjan south of the capital. One soldier was wounded in the face, the other in the shoulder. The Kuwaiti fled across the border with Saudi Arabia, but was captured and returned.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:33PM

Hispanics achieve a Census pinnacle

They're now largest U.S. minority

By KIM COBB

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Demographics experts said it was just a matter of time: The U.S. Census bureau reports Hispanics have surpassed blacks as the nation's largest minority group.

The nation's Hispanic population grew to 37 million by July 2001, edging past the black population of 36.2 million. And demographics experts say the gap will widen because of higher birth and immigration rates among Hispanics.

"We are at the beginning of a century of profound social and cultural change, with obvious policy implications," said Juan Andrade Jr., president of the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago. "Government needs to begin thinking about it."

The statistics on race and ethnicity released Tuesday are the Census Bureau's first since the numbers released nearly two years ago from the 2000 census. The new numbers reflect estimated population change between April 2000 and July 2001.

The bureau reports that the U.S. population grew to 284.8 million in July 2001, up from 281.4 million in April 2000. Thirteen percent of the population is Hispanic, 12.7 percent is black, and 4 percent is Asian.

Whites remain in the majority at nearly 70 percent, but Andrade noted that demographers say the white and black populations will continue to lose ground against the burgeoning Hispanic population.

That trend already has been seen in Texas, where Hispanics gained on blacks in the 1980s as Texas' largest minority group. Under population patterns observed in the state during the 1990s, Hispanics could be the majority, outpacing whites, by 2030, according to projections calculated by the Texas State Data Center.

Andrade's institute focuses on voter registration and leadership development for Hispanics. While Hispanics remain behind the curve in terms of political power when compared to whites and blacks, he said he expects to catch up.

"It will take awhile before our power reflects our numbers," Andrade said.

Republicans and Democrats have taken note of Hispanics' political potential, with recent campaigns focusing on outreach to the growing community.

Last year, the top two Democratic candidates in the Texas gubernatorial race debated in Spanish. Also last year, the Republican National Committee began sending representatives to citizenship ceremonies to register Hispanic immigrants.

But not all are embracing the growing Hispanic numbers.

Dan Stein, executive director of the Federation for Immigration Reform, a group that advocates limits on immigration, said the bounding Latino growth "comes at the expense of other minority groups, especially black people, who have worked for 200 years to get a level playing field, a fair shot.

Hillary Shelton, director of the NAACP's Washington bureau, disagreed. "There are those who would like to pit the African-American community against the Latino community that share an awful lot more in common than we do in differences."

One of those interests is education, and improving opportunities for Hispanics has to be a priority for the U.S. government, Andrade said.

"We've learned over the decades that the current process does not work well in the Latino community, in as much as our dropout rate has not decreased significantly," Andrade said. After 20 years of work, Andrade said, the gap between the higher graduation rate of white students and Hispanic students has closed by four percent.

"If we don't begin to do something better and more effective, we'll go into the next century having created a permanent underclass," he said.

Demographers long have forecast that the national Hispanic population would surge past blacks. Still, tabulating the population data by race and ethnicity is something of an inexact science because of the way the government categorizes people.

The process became even more confusing in 2000 after the Census Bureau allowed people to identify themselves by more than one race.

Hispanic refers to ethnicity rather than race, according to the government. The census form asks people to identify themselves from among five racial groups (white, black, American Indian or Alaska native, Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander) and to say whether they are Hispanic or non-Hispanic. But many Hispanics didn't follow the government's logic: more than 40 percent counted in the census chose the category "some other race."

About 1.1 million people in July 2001 were identified by the government as black and Hispanic, while 34.5 million said they were white and Hispanic. The figure of 36.1 million blacks refers to those who are not Hispanic, just as the figure of 199.3 million whites does not include those who identified themselves as Hispanic and white.

The Washington Post and The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:07PM

Political winds may stir change in abortion laws

By JOHN WILLIAMS

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle Political Writer

On today's 30th anniversary of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, the bitter opponents on the issue agree about one thing.

They share a belief that the nation's political climate is ripe for laws limiting abortion because Republicans control the White House, Congress and many state legislatures, including the one in Texas.

For abortion opponents, the political momentum offers an opportunity, at minimum, to fashion laws making it harder for women to have abortions. At the most, they hope to reverse *Roe v. Wade*.

For supporters of abortion rights, the national swing means a diminution in the right to control their own bodies that women gained when the Supreme Court ruled they had a constitutional right to abortions.

"*Roe v. Wade* is at the hub of the women's movement," said Austin attorney Sarah Weddington, who took the case to the Supreme Court and won. "When women finally had control of their bodies, it opened up other avenues to them.

"However, I am afraid that the cornerstone is being chipped away. Thirty years later, it is in danger."

As the abortion rate is on the decline nationally, much of the focus now is on President Bush, who campaigned that the Supreme Court "overstepped the constitutional bounds" with *Roe v. Wade*.

Since taking office, the president has changed federal rules in an effort to raise the legal status of a fetus. And he has prohibited female soldiers from getting abortions at military hospitals, even if they pay for them.

Last fall, abortion rights proponents criticized a change on the Web site of the National Institutes of Health. It had said that studies showed "no association between abortion and breast cancer." It now says the evidence is inconclusive, citing different studies.

With Bush setting the tone, the first fully Republican-controlled Congress since the 1950s is considering bills to limit abortions.

Atop the list is proposed legislation to limit late-term abortions, which opponents call partial-birth abortions.

Congress passed legislation banning the procedure in 1996 and 1997, but President Clinton vetoed the bills.

Bush has said he would sign such legislation, and it appears likely to reach his desk.

"We will pass a partial-birth abortion ban," said U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan. "That's going to hearten people. It's been a long fight. We're finally turning some of the battle."

Lawmakers also might consider legislation prohibiting adults from helping minors cross state lines for abortions to evade parental consent or notification laws. Another proposal would prohibit withdrawal of funding from public hospitals because they refuse to perform abortions.

Regardless of whether such legislation is considered, the fact that it is getting attention indicates new vigor in the anti-abortion movement.

Today, more than 50,000 abortion opponents are expected to march in Washington. Abortion rights advocates are planning counterdemonstrations.

"I would like to see the day that *Roe* is overturned," said Elizabeth Graham of Texas Right to Life. "But in the meantime, we can protect thousands of lives by incrementally changing other laws."

In Texas, abortion opponents have support from Gov. Rick Perry. He has said he expects to sign anti-abortion legislation, which would be the state's first in four years.

In 1999, then-Gov. Bush signed legislation requiring that a parent be notified when a girl younger than 18 seeks abortion, unless she receives a court waiver of the requirement.

Several bills proposed for this year's Legislature would limit abortions.

Rep. Frank Corte Jr., R.-San Antonio, has reintroduced a bill imposing a one-day waiting period on patients seeking abortions. The bill would mandate that during the waiting period, patients receive state-provided information on adoption clinics, medical risks of abortion and color photographs of fetuses at different stages of development.

Corte's bill also would require abortion clinics to locate at least 1,500 feet from schools and churches.

"We have to do this one step at a time," Graham said.

The move toward further restriction troubles Weddington and others. Not only do they believe women have fewer abortion rights than in the 1970s, when states enacted post-*Roe v. Wade* legislation making abortion legal, they fear Bush could add an anti-abortion voice to the Supreme Court.

Speculation focuses especially on the possible retirement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 72, who is considered the swing vote in a court split 5-4 in favor of abortion rights.

If she retires and Bush appoints an anti-abortion justice, as his social conservative supporters will demand, that fragile majority might switch in the other direction.

"If the court changes and *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, it would have a tremendous impact on women," said Jennifer Brown, legal director of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

But abortion opponents disagree, saying the psychological and physical damage abortion causes women is immeasurable.

"The mantra that this is a proliferation of the women's rights movement is blatantly false," said Texas Right to Life's Graham. "In my lifetime, I expect to see a reversal in abortion because of the problems women have when they have abortions."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Jan. 21, 2003, 5:16PM

They can clone a cat, but they can't copy one yet

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION - Rainbow the cat is a typical calico with splotches of brown, tan and gold on white. Cc, her clone, has a striped gray coat over white.

Rainbow is reserved. Cc is curious and playful.

Rainbow is chunky. Cc is sleek.

Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society might be inclined to say: I told you so. But then, so would cc's creators at Texas A&M University.

Sure, you can clone your favorite cat. But the copy will not necessarily act -- or even look -- like the original.

Cc (for carbon copy) is just over a year old. Her birth Dec. 22, 2001, was big news when it was announced last February because it was the first time a household pet had been cloned. Previous mammal clones were barnyard animals like cows and goats.

Cc's creation was funded by Genetic Savings & Clone, a company that hopes to make money from people's desires to duplicate their favorite pets.

But people who hope cloning will resurrect a pet will be disappointed, said Duane Kraemer, one of A&M's animal cloning experts.

Experts say environment is as important as genes in determining a cat's personality. And as far as appearance, having the same DNA as another calico cat doesn't always produce the same coat pattern.

"This vindicates the opposition we espoused from the beginning, that cloning does not lead to duplication," said Pacelle, senior vice president of the Humane Society of the United States.

"Not only does cloning not produce a physical duplicate, but it can never reproduce the behavior or personality of a cat that you want to keep around. There are millions of cats in shelters and with rescue groups that need homes, and the last thing we need is a new production strategy for cats."

Before the birth of cc, Genetic Savings & Clone had hundreds of pet DNA samples stored at a cost of \$895 for healthy animals and \$1,395 for sick or dead animals.

Lou Hawthorne, Genetic Savings & Clone chief executive, has estimated that the cost to create a clone will initially be in the low five figures and later drop to the low four figures.

Though cc's arrival sparked a deluge of calls from pet owners, more research is needed to figure out how to produce consistently healthy clones before the company can start doing it commercially, said Ben Carlson, the company's spokesman.

"A year ago, we said we'd start commercial services in a year, and here we are a year later," Carlson said. "It's really impossible for us to make a certain prediction as to how long it's going to take to develop the technology to get successful results."

There is a demand from dog lovers, but scientists so far have been unable to clone a canine.

In fact, cc's creation was the result of a dog lover, not a cat lover. University of Phoenix founder John Sperling wanted a duplicate of his collie mix, Missy. With his \$3.7 million, Texas A&M launched the "Missyplcity" project over four years ago.

Now, Missy is dead, euthanized last year because of an inoperable growth on her esophagus. Sperling has redirected his funding to the Sausalito, Calif.-based Genetic Savings & Clone, which he hopes will one day deliver a clone of Missy.

Carlson said the company tells pet owners that cloning won't resurrect their pet and that the company has turned away some customers clearly interested in getting the same animal.

"In the short term, it's easy to exploit that misperception," he said. "But in the long term, it's unethical, and the pet owner will quickly find that, 'Hey, this isn't Fluffy, this puppy doesn't recognize me or know all the old tricks.'"

However, he said cloning could reproduce what a pet owner considers to be exceptional genes, particularly from an animal with unknown parentage or one that has been spayed or neutered.

"A small percentage of the population know exactly what they want and they want to stick with it -- another animal as similar as possible," Carlson said. "That's the motive we've encountered among our clients."

But disclaimers could go unheard by pet owners desperate to duplicate an animal, said University of Pennsylvania bioethicist Arthur Caplan, a critic of cloning and companies that purport to sell it.

He said animal lovers bond with pets because of their personalities and behaviors, not the genetic

material that defines the immune system or blood type.

"The new cloned dog won't know the old tricks -- you have to teach them," Caplan said. "It doesn't matter how many genes they have in common."

With the Missyplicity funding gone, Texas A&M will continue trying to break new ground in cloning farm animals, wildlife and dogs, but it is finished with cats and any commercial pet venture.

As for cc, the Texas scientists say she has shown no signs of genetic defects.

"She's been perfectly healthy and perfectly a cat ever since her birth," Kraemer said. "That's true of all our clones. You'd have to be told they were cloned in order to know" they weren't conceived the natural way.

Even so, cc has been protected by a sterile environment, a precaution to make sure she is healthy; visitors are not allowed to pet her.

That will change gradually when she moves into her new home with Kraemer and his wife, Shirley. The Kraemers will introduce her slowly, first exposing her to people who have cats before letting her cavort with their other two felines.

In time, they plan to let cc produce some carbon copies of her own. But they are looking for just the right tom.

"Our geneticists haven't gotten back with that information," Kraemer said.

Jan. 21, 2003, 5:15PM

Lawyer: Michael Morales to plead guilty to extortion charge

Associated Press

AUSTIN -- Michael Morales, the brother of former Texas Attorney General Dan Morales, will plead guilty to federal extortion charges related to threats he made to the Tony Sanchez gubernatorial campaign, his attorney said today.

Federal agents had been investigating Michael Morales on allegations that he tried to extort between \$200,000 and \$300,000 from Sanchez by threatening to release information about the millionaire from Laredo.

Michael Morales' attorney, John Pinckney of San Antonio, said the U.S. Attorney's office would file an information detailing the case in the next couple of days.

He declined to say what it was Morales threatened to release, although published reports have said it was an allegation of criminal activity.

Morales faces up to two years in prison and \$250,000 in fines, said Pinckney, who met with federal investigators on Tuesday. No hearing or court appearance was immediately scheduled, he said.

Pinckney said his client had no comment.

"We'll handle that later," he said.

Telephone calls to the U.S. Attorney's office and Dan Morales were not immediately returned.

Sanchez lost to Gov. Rick Perry in the November election. Dan Morales lost to Sanchez in the Democratic primary and ended up endorsing Perry's bid.

Michael Morales, 40, lives in San Antonio and along with brother Ron Morales has won numerous Grammys for producing recordings, including Freddie Fender's 2002 album "La Musica de Baldemar Huerta."

Michael and Ron Morales also developed campaign ads for their brother's bid against Sanchez in the

Democratic primary last year. They also worked previously on Dan Morales' races for the Legislature and attorney general.

According to published reports, a caller to Sanchez's campaign manager threatened to make public an allegation that Sanchez committed a felony in the 1960s while a law student at St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

A spokesman for the Sanchez campaign said the campaign got a call attempting to extort money during the week of an Oct. 9 debate between Sanchez and Perry in Houston.

The alleged illegal activity involving Sanchez was never reported to the police. The matter could not be corroborated adequately to make it public, Dan Morales said earlier this month.

Jan. 21, 2003, 9:07PM

MEETING OF OPENED MINDS

Teen summit helps foster acceptance

By PAIGE HEWITT
Special to the Chronicle

Seventeen-year-old Laverne Mendoza wants to set the record straight.

She's an American of Asian heritage, not an FOB (that's short for "fresh off the boat"). And, contrary to what people ask her, her house doesn't smell like fish.

Hector Garcia, a sophomore at Lamar High, wants to make a point as well. When a white girl gets pregnant, he says, people feel sorry for her.

"But when a Hispanic or black girl gets pregnant, everybody thinks she's a whore," Garcia says. "That's not right."

Jordan Wooddell is "tired of the ethnic thing."

"People are always saying African-American or Mexican-American," says Wooddell, a student at Sterling High. "We are all Americans."

Such sentiments were common recently at The Teen Summit on Race Relations, an annual gathering for students to embrace ethnic and cultural differences.

Teens say the event does that by giving them permission to openly discuss what is often seen as taboo.

"Talking about these things helps to open the mind," said Basel Murad, a junior at Strake Jesuit, a prep school for boys. "And I think that's important, because the world is really changing."

And, while students said there is room for improvement in relations among races and cultures, they emphasized that today's young people are far more open-minded than past generations.

"My parents' experience was completely different than mine," said Russell Gallien III, a senior at Cypress Falls High. "Teenagers today have been brought up in a more colorblind society."

The summit was founded seven years ago by Awanda Whitworth, who sits on the board of The Inter-ethnic Forum of Houston, which sponsors the event.

"This is about quality of life," Whitworth said. "We can live together, but is it quality? If we want to live in harmony, we have to understand each other. We have to talk to each other, and we have to listen."

About 1,700 teenagers from dozens of public and private high schools in the Houston area attended this year's gathering.

They were clustered into groups and assigned specific topics.

Teachers directed the teens in discussion of such issues as affirmative action, children of interracial marriages, inter-racial dating, discrimination, hate crimes and stereotyping.

One of the groups discussing "cultural unfamiliarity" was composed of 13 students -- five Hispanics, five blacks, two whites and one Asian. Seven of the students were boys.

One attends a parochial school, while the remaining go to inner-city or suburban schools -- a few described themselves as economically poor, the remainder as working-class.

The discussion, which was led by teachers Patricia Montemayor and Clemencia Vigil from Lee High in Goose Creek ISD, focused on how being unfamiliar with other cultures can cause or contribute to tension in relationships among people of different racial backgrounds.

Nearly all of the teens in the group said they are not uncomfortable with people of other races or cultures. Most said they have dated a person of another race.

But some have had to hide it from their parents.

For example, Genesis Jackson, a black student at Galena Park High, dated a Hispanic girl whose father wasn't OK with the arrangement.

The man used the "N" word often, Jackson said.

"I can't do anything about that," Jackson said. "I can only stay open-hearted. Me, personally, I'm willing to find out what someone else's culture is about. But that's just me."

Russell Gallien III, a senior at Cypress Falls High and a three-time summit visitor, agreed.

"We may have different cultures," he said. "But in God's eyes, we are all equal."

Laverne Mendoza, of Northbrook High, said some things in the world are set up in such a way that the races are separated.

"They ask your ethnicity on college applications," she said. "Why does it matter? It shouldn't matter."

At another grouping, students from Strake Jesuit said they enjoyed the diversity exercise.

"It forced us to talk," said 17-year-old Brian Solar. "I met this one guy, and by the end of the day, we were shaking hands."

Other teens said the event was a meaningful opportunity that makes young people stop and think.

"You can't help but be affected by this," said Endira Hawkins, a senior at Yates High.

Hawkins said the summit forces young people to tackle an issue that needs addressing.

"You can't help but take some of this with you," she said. "And that's good because people have to be able to get along, or the world will be in chaos."

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:51PM

Morales' kin admits plan to extort Sanchez

By R.G. RATCLIFFE

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AUSTIN -- The brother of former Attorney General Dan Morales has agreed to plead guilty to attempted extortion against former Democratic gubernatorial nominee Tony Sanchez, his lawyer said Tuesday.

John Pinckney III of San Antonio said pop record producer Michael Morales agreed to plead guilty to a federal charge of "communicating an extortion threat," a crime punishable by up to two years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

"He's simply entering a plea of guilty in the incident," Pinckney said.

Dan Morales lost to Sanchez in last year's Democratic primary. Pinckney said the former state attorney general is not implicated in his brother's activities.

"Dan Morales wasn't involved at all," Pinckney said.

Dan Morales said he was sorry that his brother is in such deep trouble.

"We are obviously very disappointed to learn of Mike's actions and saddened that he will have to bear the consequences," Morales said. "But he made a very big mistake."

Pinckney said he had tried to get the U.S. Attorney's Office to go along with a felony charge for Michael Morales that carried a lesser penalty, but he said that offer was rejected.

Pinckney said federal prosecutors will file a criminal information against Morales later this week, and he will enter his guilty plea at a hearing next week.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark Lane said he could not comment other than to say something will be filed in federal court today.

The criminal investigation began churning last September when Sanchez campaign manager Glenn Smith received telephone calls and faxes from a man claiming to have evidence that Sanchez committed a felony crime more than 30 years ago.

Smith said the man wanted between \$200,000 and \$500,000. Smith turned the information over to the FBI.

Dan Morales said his primary campaign was approached last year by a San Antonio woman who had been urged to come forward by her psychiatrist. He said the woman accused Sanchez of a crime while he was attending St. Mary's University law school.

Morales said he turned the woman's information over to a lawyer, who could not find evidence to prove her allegations were true.

"There was insufficient corroboration for us to come to any other conclusion than there was simply no role for our campaign to play with her allegations," Morales said.

Printed copies of the woman's statements were included in the materials sent to the Sanchez campaign with a threat to make them public.

Michael Morales, 40, had been involved in his brother's campaign and produced its television commercials.

Smith could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:38PM

High court refuses death row case

Mentally ill Texas man will seek clemency from Perry, lawyers say

By PATTY REINERT

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WASHINGTON -- A Texas murderer with paranoid schizophrenia lost his latest bid Tuesday to avoid execution when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear his appeal.

Without commenting, the high court declined to take up the issue of whether James Colburn, 42, should get a chance to convince a lower court that he should not be executed because he is mentally ill.

"We're profoundly disappointed," said Houston attorney Philip Hilder, who along with James Rytting is representing Colburn.

The decision means the state likely will set a new execution date for Colburn, whose execution by injection was stayed by the Supreme Court in November, just minutes before he was to enter the Huntsville death chamber.

Hilder and Rytting said they are considering further appeals. Meanwhile, they will ask Texas Gov. Rick Perry for clemency in an effort to get their client's death sentence commuted to life in prison.

"Executing people with mental illness as grave as Mr. Colburn's is barbaric," Rytting said. "This is an opportunity for the state of Texas to demonstrate, and even take the lead, in this critical area of the law and help him."

Jane Shepperd, spokeswoman for the Texas Attorney General's Office, declined to comment on the court's decision. Representatives for the governor's office were attending Perry's inauguration Tuesday afternoon and did not return calls seeking comment.

Colburn was sentenced to death for the June 26, 1994, murder of Peggy Murphy near Conroe. Murphy, 55, was hitchhiking on a street outside Colburn's apartment when she asked him for a glass of water. Colburn invited her into his apartment and attempted to rape her. When she resisted, he choked her until she passed out, then stabbed her in the neck with a steak knife. He then asked a neighbor to call the police and sat down to smoke a cigarette and await their arrival.

Colburn confessed later that day, saying he had heard a voice telling him that killing Murphy would send him back to prison, where he would be safe. Colburn, who had suffered from paranoid schizophrenia since the age of 14, had told family members that he had been hearing voices in the days before the killing and was worried he would harm someone in his family.

Colburn previously had tried to kill himself and had been in and out of mental hospitals to treat his disorder, which includes symptoms of delusions, hearing voices and feeling persecuted.

At trial, prosecutors said Colburn told detectives that he did not hear voices specifically commanding him to kill Murphy, but instead acted on a sudden impulse. They also said Colburn was receiving proper medication to control his psychosis.

Rytting and Hilder said Colburn was so heavily sedated with antipsychotic drugs that he slept through much of his trial. Even when awake, Rytting said, Colburn was so drowsy he was unable to understand the proceedings or to communicate with lawyers trying to defend him.

The jury found Colburn guilty and agreed on a death sentence despite his mental illness.

Under Texas law, a mentally ill killer can be executed if, as his execution date approaches, he understands the reason for the punishment and the fact that the execution is "imminent."

Last fall, as Colburn's execution date was approaching, the Montgomery County court where he was convicted ordered a mental evaluation to determine whether Colburn was competent to be executed. The court appointed two experts suggested by prosecutors, both of whom found Colburn competent.

Colburn's lawyers asked the court to pay for an expert of their choosing to challenge the state's experts and they asked for a hearing to present evidence. The court denied both requests.

On appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, Colburn's lawyers first tried to argue the bigger issue that executing the mentally ill is "cruel and unusual punishment" banned by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution. The court, which last year banned executions for the mentally retarded on those grounds, rejected Colburn's plea that it consider extending the ban to spare mentally ill killers.

But then, at the very last minute, the justices agreed to halt Colburn's execution so they could consider whether to accept his case and decide the procedural question of when inmates like Colburn should be allowed to make the case that they are incompetent to be executed.

The first time Colburn's lawyers tried to make that argument, shortly after his conviction, the lower courts said they were too early. The issue was not considered "ripe" for deciding because Colburn's execution was not yet "imminent." Later, the courts said it was too late for Colburn to make the argument because he had failed to raise it earlier.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans agreed with that assessment, but other circuits around the country have disagreed in similar cases. Colburn's lawyers urged the Supreme Court to settle the issue, but they were unable to persuade the justices to take the case.

Jan. 22, 2003, 12:57AM

County officials plan to sue dry cleaners over pollution

By ROMA KHANNA

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A dry-cleaning business accused of discharging a potentially cancer-causing chemical into the drinking water of businesses and homes in Cypress-Fairbanks is facing a lawsuit from Harris County.

On Tuesday, Commissioners Court approved a lawsuit against Bell Cleaners, which released a dry-cleaning solvent, tetrachloroethylene, that seeped into more than 40 wells, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. One of the wells serves a child-care center.

The county attorney's office is drafting its petition, which it expects to file this week, said County Attorney Michael Stafford.

The family of Dae Kim, who is dead but owned Bell Cleaners at the time of the alleged pollution, maintains the store was not the source of the chemicals, which the state's environmental agency said was released through an equipment leak. The family's attorney, Alexander Chae, did not return calls Tuesday.

Tetrachloroethylene has been widely implicated in water contamination cases across the country. It can cause dizziness, nausea, headaches and sleepiness in high concentrations. Long-term exposure can cause cancer and kidney or liver damage. In some wells, the chemical was found at levels 25 times those considered safe, according to the TCEQ.

Jan. 22, 2003, 12:54AM

Call for reservists strains smaller police forces

By KIM COBB

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RICHARDSON -- When police departments across Texas look for new officers, they often recruit people freshly discharged from the state's military bases.

But that tradition hasn't come without strings: As the nation prepares for a possible war, police departments are losing officers as their military reserve units are called to active duty.

Big cities like Houston can absorb the losses, but it's a tough sacrifice for the state's smaller cities and towns.

"The next year or two is not going to be easy for us," said Lt. Joe Noret, director of training for the Abilene Police Department.

Abilene lost six officers to the reserves shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, and all but one returned by November. But Noret says the department has to face the possibility that all five may be called up again.

"We have an authorized force of 180 (officers)," Noret said. "With attrition, and so forth, we are 10 officers short now -- and if we lose five more, we're really going to be hurting for manpower. We're definitely straining."

Departments in big cities -- Houston and Dallas -- report proportionately larger numbers of officers who've been called to active reserve duty. But with police forces that number in the thousands, the impact is diluted.

The Houston Police Department has 12 officers who've already been called to active duty out of about 100 military reservists on the force. The Harris County Sheriff's Department has 10 of its deputies currently on active military duty.

And in Dallas, the nearly 3,000-member police force has 16 officers currently on active duty (out of 116 reservists) and another four expecting imminent call-up.

San Antonio's Police Department is the statewide leader for participation in the reserves. A major

military center, the city is home to several bases and thousands of military retirees.

With a police force just shy of 2,000, the SAPD has 165 reservists -- 50 of whom already have been called into service. But police spokeswoman Sandy Gutierrez said the department has a recently graduated cadet class and will borrow resources from other departments to fill the gaps.

In Beaumont, only two police officers have reported to active duty. The department has more than 250 officers, but Lt. David Travis explained that the problem is one of "who," not "how many."

"One of these guys who is gone is in our narcotics department," explained Administrative Lt. David Travis. "When you start eliminating people from five-man units, there's significant impact."

In the West Texas city of Lubbock, the Police Department had a big sendoff last week for five officers called to serve. They left Tuesday for San Diego.

Administrative Capt. Richard Foster said it would definitely have an impact if all 19 of the reservists on the force were called up. But having dealt with similar call-ups after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, Foster said, Lubbock police found they could reshuffle the officers and schedule more overtime to fill most of the gaps without sacrificing public safety.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:35PM

One more lesson for ace student

By THOM MARSHALL

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LARRY HUANG'S ABILITY to learn and his willingness to work hard have put him at the top of his class, made him this year's likely valedictorian at Bellaire High School.

Society expects great things from such a young man. We expect him to continue down the path of excellence. That means succeeding in his university studies. It means reaching the top of his chosen field.

It means wearing his accomplishments and conducting himself in ways that will inspire others.

While no one can ever achieve perfection, most of us expect a high school valedictorian to come a little bit closer. And the bigger and more competitive the school, the greater this expectation.

Bellaire is both about as big as they come, with 3,200 students, and one of the most academically competitive schools in the country, with 63 National Merit semifinalists in the 2002 graduating class.

So last week, when Huang's mistake became known, it was big news.

On the Internet at home, Huang had made some angry and offensive remarks regarding Hispanics. A fellow student printed out some copies and distributed them at school.

Classmates debate punishment

It was the talk of the campus on Friday. Huang was sent home early and told to report back with his parents on Tuesday morning (because Monday was a holiday). It surely must have been a long weekend at the Huang house.

After seeing the story about Huang in the Chronicle on Saturday, I asked a Bellaire student I know about the talk going around at school.

One opinion bandied about, said this student, was that Huang's racist remarks have offended and embarrassed the entire student body and he should not represent Bellaire as valedictorian. And if he retains the valedictorian title, he should not be allowed to deliver a valedictory address at graduation ceremonies.

But the valedictorian title is based upon achievement and grades. It is not awarded as a popularity prize, nor could it legitimately be taken away because of unpopular comments.

And what purpose would be served by denying the valedictorian his chance to speak at graduation? Would such censorship help to fix a problem or only make it worse?

Instead of asking how Huang should be punished -- instead of retributive justice measures -- this situation could better be served by restorative justice methods.

I asked that Bellaire student I was talking with to consider the basic questions posed in pursuing restorative justice: What was the harm done? What can be done to repair the harm? Who should repair the harm?

The harm done is that many people were offended by Huang's comments. Also, he cast a shadow over his bright future and thus disappointed many people who expect great things from him.

Only Huang can undo damage

The harm could be repaired if he could convince those who were offended that he is not a racist and that he truly regrets the hurtful words (as the Chronicle story said he does). And if he can find a light of understanding to shine that shadow off his future.

Huang is the only one who can repair the harm. His mistake can become another opportunity for him to learn.

Lessons like: With great achievements come great responsibilities.

Or: When you work hard and get to the top, people pay closer attention to what you say.

Or: What you put on the Internet in a few angry minutes may cost you many days of regret.

HISD officials said Tuesday that Huang will issue a public apology at school and undergo racial sensitivity counseling.

By the end of May he might have much worthwhile to say. That valedictory speech could be one of the best ever.

Thom Marshall's e-mail address is thom.marshall@chron.com.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:45PM

Chase denies slave-trade link

Texas descendants sue banking giant, other businesses

By **KEVIN MORAN**

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GALVESTON -- No evidence exists to support claims that financial giant J.P. Morgan Chase is linked by long-ago mergers to banks that sold insurance to African slave traders before the Civil War, a Chase spokesman said Tuesday.

Chase was named Tuesday as a defendant in a federal lawsuit in which Texas descendants of slaves maintain that some of the nation's biggest corporations prospered in part because of millions of dollars in profits from slavery.

"We have examined our archives and had them examined by an outside, independent archival expert to look for any evidence to support these allegations," Chase spokesman Tom Johnson said. "We've found nothing to indicate that we were involved in any of the (slave) transactions that are being quoted in articles about the lawsuit.

"These allegations are without merit."

In their lawsuit, slave descendants are seeking restitution for their ancestors' forced labor, the bulk of which would go into a trust to finance health care for African-Americans and programs to foster racial healing, attorneys who filed the lawsuit said.

The value of unpaid slave labor from 1790 to 1860 is estimated by some to have been worth \$40 million at the time, according to the lawsuit. That figure would translate to as much as \$1.4 trillion in today's market, the lawsuit maintains.

However, the lawsuit seeks unspecified restitution and damages.

Robert Notzon, one of the attorneys representing the slave descendants for the NAACP, said Chase's alleged involvement with slave-trade insurance is not the only allegation the banking giant will face as the case proceeds.

"Insurance is one issue; profiting is another," Notzon said. "I'm sure they financed businesses that

profited from the slave trade."

In addition to Chase, Union Pacific Railroad and Westpoint Stevens Inc. are named as defendants in the case.

Union Pacific has denied profiting from the slave trade, claiming that the railroad wasn't created until 1897, more than 30 years after President Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery.

Westpoint spokeswoman Toni Cauble said Tuesday the company does not comment on pending lawsuits.

Westpoint manufactures bed and bath linens and sells them in company stores. A firm that Westpoint acquired formerly bought Southern plantation cotton and made coarse clothing that planters gave to slaves, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was filed in Galveston U.S. District Judge Sam Kent's court. Kent ordered attorneys involved in the case to appear April 2 in his court to set up a schedule for discovery and other pretrial procedures. No trial date is set.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are Julie Mae Wyatt-Kervin, 99, her son, Billy Gene McGee, and his wife, Ina Hurdle McGee. Wyatt-Kervin's parents were slaves on the Foote plantation in Wharton County, where they helped raise cotton, cane and corn.

Ina McGee, 69, retired from 43 years as a teacher in Dallas, is the great-granddaughter of Andrew Jackson Hurdle. Hurdle was brought to Daingerfield in Morris County to serve as a playmate for one of his owner's sons, according to the lawsuit.

Besides Notzon, State Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, and Gary Bledsoe, president of the Texas National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, represent the slave descendants.

The attorneys are seeking class-action status for the case and have named as defendants "Corporate Does Nos. 1-100," leaving room for additional corporate defendants "until such time as the specific identity of such additional companies is ascertained through discovery or other means."

The lawsuit opens with a 10-page summary of the history of slavery and its effects in the United States and Texas, from the time a Dutch slave ship sailed into Jamestown harbor in 1619 to the present.

The lawsuit dubs Texas "the last frontier of slavery in the United States."

Slavery began in the state in 1824 when Stephen Austin recruited 300 families to take advantage of a Spanish land grant. By 1825, the colony numbered 443 slaves among its population of 1,800, according to the lawsuit.

Mexico proclaimed independence from Spain and outlawed slavery by 1829, according to the lawsuit. After Texas won independence from Mexico, as many as 2,000 slaves were brought to Texas through Galveston and Houston by 1865, according to the lawsuit.

President Abraham Lincoln abolished slavery with issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. Two years later, on June 19, 1865, Texas slaves learned about it when a Union army general read the proclamation to slaves in Galveston. The modern-day Juneteenth celebration commemorates the event.

While slavery was outlawed by Lincoln, white Americans managed to keep former slaves and their descendants at a disadvantage by making them sharecroppers, denying them civil rights and giving them second-rate educational opportunities through generations, according to the lawsuit.

Plaintiffs' attorneys said the suit could be joined with similar ones pending in a Chicago federal court.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:35PM

Top student is spared suspension

Likely valedictorian apologizes for allegedly racist comments

By ZANTO PEABODY

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A Bellaire High School ace student who made alleged racist remarks on the Internet will not be suspended, a school district official said Tuesday, but he has been ordered to attend counseling for racial sensitivity.

Harry Huang, 18, who is presumed to be Bellaire's valedictorian, was sent home Friday after copies of reportedly racist statements he made were passed around campus. Huang has said he was upset with Hispanic men who approached him Jan. 8, claimed to be mechanics and demanded money. He wrote an angry message after the confrontation. At least one classmate who read the message made copies and passed them out to others.

Bellaire High School Principal Tim Salem, who said he had considered suspending Huang, instead ordered the counseling and told Huang to write an apology and distribute it at school today. Salem referred questions to district officials.

Houston Independent School District spokeswoman Heather Browne said the school backed away from suspending Huang because officials wanted to protect his right to free speech. Browne also said she did not know if Salem consulted an attorney.

"Although the incident was very unfortunate, it took place on his own time off campus," Browne said. "Those things, combined with essentially his right to free speech, did not represent an arena for severe disciplinary action."

Nonetheless, Browne said, the principal could have suspended Huang based on a provision in the student conduct code that prohibits any activity that disrupts class.

"The fact that what he wrote was copied and distributed was technically a disruption of the educational day," she said.

Huang, who did not attend classes Tuesday, said he agreed to write a statement for teachers to hand out in class.

Huang did not repeat what he wrote on the Internet message, but in a letter Friday to the Houston Chronicle, he expressed regret.

"I wrote it only to release my anger, to vent over my own stupidity and misfortune during the events of that afternoon. The second I realized the ugliness of my words, I retracted and regretted the statements."

Huang, who hopes to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the presumed valedictorian of Bellaire based on a 4.93 grade point average.

Browne said the computer message will not affect Huang's academic standing, and the school will not post a disciplinary note on his permanent record. Final academic rankings will be announced next month.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:47PM

Red Cross is facing emergency of its own

\$1 million budget shortfall forces cuts

By LEIGH HOPPER

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle Medical Writer

A disastrous year in donations is forcing Houston's disaster specialist, the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, to lay off about 30 of its 200 employees, the organization said Tuesday.

A \$1 million shortfall in its \$11 million budget is forcing the chapter to trim programs such as transportation for the elderly, lifeguard training and CPR classes, said spokeswoman Margaret O'Brien.

The shortfall will not affect disaster response and services for military personnel, she said.

"We'll have to do more with less," O'Brien said. "All those are being looked at to see how they can be made more efficient."

Like charitable organizations across the country, the Houston Red Cross is in a financial squeeze blamed on the weak economy and a drop in donations after an initial post-Sept. 11 outpouring. The Houston chapter is supported mainly by United Way money and individual contributions.

"Giving's been down for everybody," O'Brien said. "It's not particular to this chapter or because it's the Red Cross."

O'Brien said she hopes calling attention to the budget shortfall might encourage people to donate money.

The Houston Red Cross has satellite offices in 18 counties and organizes disaster operations for the entire state.

Last year, the Houston Red Cross responded to a dozen large-scale disasters in Texas, including tornadoes, floods, one tropical storm, a windstorm and a hailstorm.

The Red Cross also facilitates communication between members of the military and their families.

Jan. 21, 2003, 8:29PM

Needs for love, sex diverge in later years

Associated Press

CHAPPAQUA, N.Y. -- Love and sex are more important to a happy marriage for men in their late 50s and early 60s than at any other time in their lives, a new survey says. Unfortunately for them, that's just when intimacy becomes less important to women.

The survey, being published in the February issue of Reader's Digest, found that between the ages of 57 and 64 men become more attentive to their wives while women, finally freed from family responsibilities, find more goals outside of marriage.

"The guys are saying, 'Now I get it. I want more intimacy,' " said John Gottman, a marriage expert who analyzed polling data for the magazine. "And the women are saying, 'Sorry, bub, I've already done that. I've got my own goals now.' "

The nationwide telephone survey was conducted in June for the Chappaqua-based magazine by the Ipsos-NPD research group, which randomly chose 500 married men and 500 married women, but no couples. Questions were designed to determine how happy their marriages were and find out about specific behavior and attitudes.

Women in the 57-to-64 age group rated good sex at 46 on a scale of 100 for its importance to a happy marriage. Men rated it 62. For the 44-to-56 age group, the importance of sex got a 66 from women and a 54 from men.

The differences smooth out somewhat in later years. The importance of sex drops for men, while they remain highly interested in being in love.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:35PM

Mary Wilson, aided in WWII oil search

By LYNWOOD ABRAM

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Mary Catherine Fitter Wilson, retired science teacher and member of a seismological crew that searched for oil during World War II, died of cancer Friday in an Austin hospice. She was 85.

"She loved teaching very much. She was loved and respected by her students. She kept up with them after they left school, and they came back to visit her," said her son-in-law, David Lill of Austin.

Wilson taught earth science at Spring Forest Junior High School in the Spring Branch school district for 14 years, from 1969 until she retired in 1983.

Born Oct. 7, 1917, on her family's farm in Altus, Okla., Wilson lived through the Great Depression and Dust Bowl days. She graduated from Altus High School in 1935.

Because her father had a steady job as a rural mail carrier, the family fared comparatively well during those dark times, unlike other residents of Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas, many of whom headed for California and the Pacific Northwest.

In 1941, Wilson graduated from the University of Oklahoma where she majored in zoology and minored in chemistry and physics.

During the early years of the war, she taught physics to Army officers at OU.

Because of her scientific background and because manpower was in short supply, she got a job on a Continental Oil Co. seismological crew -- at the time an unusual job for a woman. Joseph William "Joe" Wilson was the new crew chief, and the two were married in 1947.

After the Wilsons moved to Houston, Mary Wilson raised five children and then took a teaching job with the Spring Branch school district. Joe Wilson died in 1989.

Survivors include sons, Joseph William Wilson Jr. of Colleyville, Lawrence Wilson of Houston and David Wilson of Portland, Ore.; daughters, Phyllis Wilson of Longview and Emily Lill of Austin; brothers, Philip Fitter, Francis "Frank" Fitter and Jean Fitter, all of Crowley, Pat Fitter of Edmond, Okla., and Sylvester "Sy" Fitter of Ada, Okla.; sisters, Rita Johnson of Walnut Creek, Calif., and Norma Ruth

Bokorney of Georgetown.

Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail. Burial will be in Altus at a date to be set.

Deaths elsewhere

William Paden Mack, a retired vice admiral and former superintendent of the Naval Academy who had a prolific career writing books about life at sea, Jan. 15 of cerebral vascular disease at his home in Annapolis, Md. He was 87.

Donald Karshan, a print collector and former director of the New York Cultural Center, Jan. 4, of Alzheimer's disease, in New York. He was 73.

Edith Lefel, French Guianese zouk singer considered one of the great voices of Afro-Caribbean music, Jan. 20, of undisclosed causes, in Dreux, France. Lefel's most recent album, *If Only*, came out last month. She was 39.

Richard Lindberg, a pioneering patient who paved the way for older patients to receive pancreas transplants, Jan. 17, from heart disease complications, in Minneapolis. He was 69.

Peter E. Palmquist, who wrote, edited or contributed to more than 25 books devoted to U.S. photographic history, Jan. 13, after being struck by a hit-and-run driver, in Oakland, Calif. He was 66.

The Rev. **Michael Zembrzuski**, founder of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, a major pilgrimage center for Roman Catholics, Jan. 16, of pancreatic cancer, in Doylestown, Pa. He was 94.

Jan. 22, 2003, 1:08AM

News briefs

Staff and Wire Reports

Area

Volunteers fail to find missing teens at lake

GROVETON -- More than 100 volunteers searched in vain Tuesday for two Jersey Village High School students who went on a boat trip Sunday on Lake Livingston.

Hope dimmed with each hour that Melissa Mercer and friend Kevin Young, both 17, will be found on a remote bank of the 82,000-acre lake or on one of its many populated islands, Trinity County Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Steptoe said.

"Everybody is holding onto optimism," said Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District spokeswoman Kelli Durham. "They are in our thoughts and prayers that they return safely."

Mercer's family was vacationing on the lake, and she and Young went out in an open-bowed aluminum boat with an outboard motor. Searchers Monday found the boat, with life jackets, washed ashore about three miles north of its launching site. It had indications of motor trouble.

Man, 70, found stabbed to death in townhouse

An elderly southwest Houston man was found stabbed to death in his townhome Tuesday.

A man visiting Robert Hugh Wilson, 70, called 911 after discovering his body in the bedroom of the home in the 11000 block of Chimney Rock shortly after 7 a.m., police said.

Nothing appeared missing, detectives said, but the back door was pried open and there were signs of a struggle. "It looks like (the assailant) took the murder weapon with him," said homicide Sgt. Doug Bacon.

Police hadn't determined the motive for the city's 13th reported homicide this year.

Driver accused of killing pedestrian is jailed

A northeast Houston man was in Harris County Jail on \$20,000 bail Tuesday after police said he was driving a truck that killed a man walking across a street.

Paulino Munoz Yopez, 20, was charged with intoxication manslaughter after allegedly striking Henry Hampton, 59, about 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the 7400 block of Jensen.

Hampton was not in the crosswalk, police said.

Man who died in crash was Sugar Land resident

A man killed in a two-car crash in south Houston has been identified as David Reginald Jones, 31, of Sugar Land.

Jones' car hit the curb in the 3900 block of Holmes about 10:45 p.m. Saturday and went airborne, striking a speed limit sign and another car before landing in the median, police said.

Victim of road-rage slaying is identified

A motorist shot to death in an apparent road rage incident has been identified as Aaron Gary Day, 21, of the 10700 block of Sabo.

He was shot once in the head as he drove along the feeder road in the 8100 block of the Gulf Freeway about 3 p.m. Jan. 15. An adult friend in the back seat with a 2-year-old child grabbed the steering wheel and brought the car to a stop.

Day was driving in the far right lane when three men in a maroon Suburban veered into his lane, sparking a fight, police said. The Suburban's front-seat passenger then shot Day.

The three men were described as Hispanics in their late 20s to early 30s, with heavy builds and shaved heads.

Woman shot to death in murder-suicide ID'd

A woman fatally shot by her husband in an apparent murder-suicide was identified as Linda Garrison, 51, of the 8700 block of Windstream.

She was shot several times by her husband, Norman, 56, about 8 a.m. Thursday at her workplace in the 13000 block of the Northwest Freeway, police said. He then went out to the parking lot and shot himself. Detectives said the couple had recently separated and that Linda Garrison filed a domestic violence report against her husband last week.

State

Texas Tech professor freed from jail on bail

LUBBOCK -- A Texas Tech professor accused of lying to federal agents about the whereabouts of 30 vials of plague bacteria was released from jail Tuesday after posting \$100,000 bail.

Federal prosecutors withdrew their motion to deny bail for Dr. Thomas C. Butler, 61, during a court hearing Tuesday morning. Butler is charged with making a false statement to a federal agent in an incident that sparked a bioterrorism scare last week.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:41PM

Energizer going right into razor business

Reuters News Service

The Energizer Bunny is going and going and going into the razor blade business.

Energizer Holdings said Tuesday it would buy Schick-Wilkinson Sword, the world's No. 2 razor and blade maker, from Pfizer for \$930 million in cash, adding a second product line and diversifying from the sluggish battery market.

Schick, which ranks a distant second behind Gillette Co. in the shaving business, would become Energizer's first significant foray outside the battery business, an industry that has been hampered by intense competition and stiff discounting. Gillette, with its Duracell brand, is also No. 1 to Energizer's No. 2 in that market.

Due to a noncash charge related to accounting for inventory, the deal would result in a "significant reduction" in Energizer's reported results in the first full quarter following the closing of the transaction, the company said.

But the deal will add to Energizer's fiscal 2004 results as it will be able to provide back office services for Schick at a lower cost than Pfizer did, Energizer officials told analysts during a conference call.

Those additional earnings would be about 20 cents a share before any benefits from combining the business, said Franklin Morton, senior vice president for portfolio management at Ariel Capital Management, Energizer's largest shareholder with about 10.5 million shares.

"I think it's a strategy they thought out and they certainly are not paying an excess price for it," Morton said.

Shares of Energizer, known for its commercials with a pink rabbit that keeps "going and going and going," fell more than 4 percent Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange.

The two businesses complement each other with similar distribution channels, which include food, drugstore, mass merchant and convenience stores as well as other outlets, analysts said.

"I think it gives them diversification in an adjacent category, which I think on a long-term basis is a good thing," said Ann Gillin Lefever, consumer products analyst at Lehman Bros. Lefever rates both Energizer

and Gillette "equal weight." She and her company do not own Energizer shares.

Schick, with 18 percent of the global wet shaving market, compared with about 70 percent for Gillette, was acquired by Pfizer in 2000, when it bought pharmaceuticals company Warner-Lambert. The brand had languished in recent years as both companies focused on their drug businesses. Gillette, over the same time, has had success launching the Mach3 and Mach3 Turbo systems for men and Venus for women.

"The opportunity really is around picking up a product that has not been core to Pfizer, and Warner-Lambert ahead of it, and to be able to improve revenue and profitability," Lefever said.

Schick plans for product innovation should help boost earnings before interest, depreciation, taxes and amortization, Energizer Chief Executive J. Patrick Mulcahy said. At the same time, Energizer has wider distribution than Schick. Energizer also said it expected to boost Schick's advertising and promotion.

Mulcahy stressed that Energizer was not looking for a knock-down, drag-out fight with Gillette.

"We're not trying to be Gillette," Mulcahy said. "As a combined company we'll only be a quarter of the size of Gillette."

Schick was one of three major businesses put up for sale by Pfizer last year as it moved to divest non-core assets.

Energizer's winning bid surprised many analysts, given that British household products company Reckitt Benckiser had been pegged as the preferred buyer after submitting the best final round bid in November, sources close to the talks said.

However, when the Reckitt talks stalled over contractual issues, Pfizer offered Energizer a chance to get back into the process at a similar price, as long as it could close a deal quickly, sources said.

Pfizer sold its Adams candy business to Cadbury Schweppes last month for \$4.2 billion and in November shed its Tetra aquarium and pond supply business.

The latest deal, which is subject to regulatory approval, is expected to close by midyear.

Schick-Wilkinson Sword, based in Milford, Connecticut, had 2002 sales of about \$650 million and sells under brand names like Xtreme3 razors and Silk Effects. Under the Wilkinson Sword name, the business also manufactures a line of ceremonial swords.

St. Louis-based Energizer's offer values the Schick business at about 8.8 times its expected 2002 earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, a higher valuation than many expected Pfizer could get for a relatively low-margin business that ranks a distant second to Gillette.

However, the auction, which was run by Morgan Stanley, ultimately drew a number of big strategic buyers, including Reckitt and No. 3 battery maker Rayovac Corp., each eyeing an opportunity to slice into Gillette's dominant market share.

The deal will be financed through cash and a \$550 million 364-day bridge loan arranged jointly by Bank One and Bank of America, with the remainder provided from existing credit facilities totaling \$520 million, Energizer said.

Jan. 22, 2003, 8:21AM

U.S. stocks to be stung by Iraq, profit outlook

Reuters News Service

NEW YORK -- Stocks were poised to fall at today's open as lackluster outlooks from heavyweights like Eastman Kodak clouded the corporate profit picture and the threat of war loomed on the horizon.

Investors had a mixed bag of scorecards from corporate America to mull, including results from mobile phone giant Motorola Inc. , drugmaker Pfizer Inc. , bank J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. .

Blue-chip photography giant Eastman Kodak posted a quarterly profit but gave a surprisingly weak forecast and said it would cut up to 3 percent of its work force.

"There are just concerns that while the fourth quarter was OK, visibility going forward is very cloudy," said Peter Boockvar, equity strategist at Miller Tabak & Co. "That's obviously giving people reason for caution, along with the nail-biting going on with Iraq."

Standard & Poor's 500 stock index futures for March were down 5.70 points at 882.80, while Nasdaq futures for the same month were off 6 points at 1,003.

The market tumbled for a fourth-straight session on Tuesday as the U.S. troop buildup in the Middle East heightened speculation about an attack on Iraq, further unnerving investors already concerned about the outlook for corporate profits.

President George W. Bush brushed aside recent opposition from France, Germany and Russia, warning on Tuesday that it was clear Baghdad had failed to meet U.N. disarmament demands. His comments raised fears in the market that military action against Iraq is inevitable.

"The increased war talk by the Bush administration is weighing on the market right now," Phil Flynn, senior market analyst at Alaron Trading Corp. The economy is generally holding up, "but if you look at the big picture, the global uncertainties are having corporations keep their cards close to the vest."

High oil prices, boosted by war worries and the general strike in Venezuela, also have investors on guard amid concerns high energy costs could crimp any economic rebound.

Skittish investors dashed for safe-haven gold, pushing the metal's price to its highest level in almost six years.

In economic news, the government is scheduled to issue federal budget figures for December at 2 p.m. .

Still, earnings reports and the forecasts that often accompany them will likely be the focus of the day.

Eastman Kodak, the top maker of photographic film, slashed its 2003 outlook, citing economic weakness and global tensions. Its shares sagged to \$35.10 in pre-open trading from \$37.59 at Tuesday's close.

Motorola Inc., the world's second-largest mobile phone maker, on Tuesday after the close posted a net profit, helped by gains in its mobile phone and semiconductor units, but forecast weaker-than-expected first-quarter results. Motorola inched up to \$9 ahead of the open from its close at \$8.75.

Technology shares shot higher in early January on hopes the battered sector was finally poised for a rebound, but the anticipated signs that a turnaround is firmly in place have yet to emerge.

The chip sector was in focus after wireless semiconductor maker RF Micro Devices Inc. late Tuesday posted better-than-expected third-quarter results in a weak telecommunications market thanks to market-share gains.

Xilinx Inc. , a designer of custom microchips, on Tuesday posted a third-quarter net loss compared with a year-ago profit after recording charges on certain assets and seeing orders slow down in the last weeks of the quarter.

Defense systems and technology company ITT Industries Inc. on Wednesday reported a rise in quarterly earnings, boosted by gains in its fluid technology businesses.

Telecommunications equipment maker Lucent Technologies Inc. climbed to \$1.80 from \$1.68 at the prior close after it posted its 11th straight quarterly loss amid lower sales, but stood by its forecast that revenue would be higher going forward despite the continuing slump in telecom spending.

Pfizer Inc., the world's largest drugmaker, on Wednesday said its quarterly profit jumped, driven by sales of prescription treatments for seizures, high cholesterol and allergies.

J.P. Morgan Chase also had bad news. It posted a quarterly loss, as it warned it would, because of \$1.3 billion in charges to cover Enron-related losses and other legal battles. Its shares fell to \$24.66 from its close at \$25.42.

In overseas trading, European blue chips sagged to fresh 3-month lows after a disappointing earnings update from Italian insurance giant Generali .

The FTSE Eurotop 300 index of pan-European blue chips was off 1.9 percent.

Tokyo stocks also limped lower, taking their cues from another lackluster performance on Wall Street.

U.S. stocks had trudged lower on Tuesday. The blue-chip Dow Jones industrial average dropped 143.84 points, or 1.68 percent, to 8,442.90. The broad Standard & Poor's 500 Index sagged 14.16 points, or 1.57 percent, to 887.62. The tech-laced Nasdaq Composite Index fell 11.94 points, or 0.87 percent, to 1,364.25.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:40PM

Changes at minority-owned firm

Partner assumes control of accounting company operations

By SHANNON BUGGS

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Now that his partners have focused their attention on civic-minded endeavors, Roland Rodriguez has assumed control of the day-to-day operations of the state's largest minority- and woman-owned accounting firm.

Rodriguez is now the managing principal of Mir, Fox & Rodriguez, a certified public accounting firm he started in January 1988 with Gasper Mir and Carolyne Fox.

Mir had been managing partner but has taken an open-ended leave of absence to join the Houston Independent School District as senior adviser to the superintendent.

Fox also started an open-ended leave on Jan. 1 in order to advise local community development corporations on strategic planning, fund development and financial management.

Fox, Mir and Rodriguez retain their seats on the firm's three-member board, and the firm will continue under its current name. The three have worked together since their days as CPAs with KPMG, one of the nation's largest accounting firms.

Until a year and a half ago, Rodriguez wasn't as active in the firm's day-to-day activities because he was the chairman and chief executive officer of the now-defunct International eCommerce, a multilingual interactive television and Internet services provider.

He said the current transition was necessary to give the firm's next generation of leaders additional responsibilities without sacrificing continuity in daily operations.

"We are very well-positioned for this management transition," he said. "As far as client service and corporate culture, there is no change at the firm."

Despite the accounting scandals that rocked corporate America last year and stricter regulatory oversight to follow, Rodriguez says the accounting industry's financial outlook for 2003 is positive. He said he anticipates adding more personnel to his staff of 50 professionals in the second half of this year.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:39PM

Harley throttles back on estimates

Bloomberg News

MILWAUKEE -- Harley-Davidson shares fell 8.7 percent Tuesday after the motorcycle company left its production target unchanged for the first time in four years, suggesting that sales growth will slow.

The 100-year-old maker of Fat Boy and Road King bikes had raised the forecast every quarter since October 1998. The announcement overshadowed a 27 percent rise in quarterly profit.

Investors are concerned that demand for Harley-Davidson products is softening as the economy struggles to emerge from recession.

The company's customers, who are wealthier than the average consumer, may be cutting back on purchases of bikes that can cost as much as \$25,000 with accessories, investors said.

"If the demand was there, they would have raised that number," said Rick Drake, a money manager at ABN Amro/Chicago Capital, which owns 1.5 million Harley shares. "I think the economy is just catching up to them."

Shares of the Milwaukee-based company declined \$4.10 to \$43 in New York Stock Exchange composite trading, after earlier dropping as much as 13 percent. Some 16 million shares traded, 8.9 times the stock's average daily volume during the past year.

Before today's decline, the shares had doubled since the end of 1998.

Harley has no outstanding corporate bonds.

Jan. 21, 2003, 9:33PM

War talk keeps peso in tailspin

Reuters News Service

MEXICO CITY -- Mexico's financial markets were early casualties of a looming U.S. war against Iraq on Tuesday, the peso hitting a record low while blue-chip cement firm Cemex giving stocks a poor start to earnings season.

The dollar rose to 10.8230 pesos from 10.6105. The peso fell to 9.2396 cents from 9.4246.

"What is hitting the peso is the probability of war," said IdeaGlobal.com economist Benito Berber.

Mexico's peso, in a recent slide, normally weakens at signs of U.S. economic frailty because the United States is the destination of 85 percent of Mexico's exports.

Less interest in Mexican exports means lower demand for the peso.

Cemex, the world's No. 3 cement maker, saw its share price drop 5.58 percent to 43.50 pesos after it announced a 56 percent slump in net profits for the fourth quarter of 2002.

"People are really disappointed because the company keeps guiding lower, and then it comes out lower than the guidance," a Mexico City trader said. "This stock is dropping like a bag of wet cement."

Mexico's bolsa index, in which Cemex is the third most heavily weighted stock, lost 68.99 points, or 1.12 percent, to 6,092.13.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:41PM

Memorial Hermann, Cigna back to talking

By DARRIN SCHLEGEL

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Memorial Hermann Healthcare System officials have resumed talks for a contract that would ensure continued access at its hospitals for thousands of Cigna Healthcare of Texas members.

The hospital system said last month it would terminate its contract with Cigna on Feb. 24 after yearlong negotiations to renew terms broke down.

"We have renewed discussions with Cigna, and it remains our hope that the contracts will be successfully negotiated before the termination date," Memorial Hermann spokeswoman Beth Sartori said Tuesday.

The two sides, however, would not say how close they are to resolving the contract impasse.

"There is nothing I can elaborate on in any detail except to say that there is some dialogue," said Mario DiBlasi, president of Cigna Healthcare of Texas.

Complicating matters for Cigna is that it must notify its members of a contract expiration at least 30 days before it happens, Cigna spokeswoman Tania Graves said.

Notification letters to members could be sent as late as Friday, Graves said, but the insurer is waiting to "see if something will change prior to that date" regarding the contract negotiations.

Memorial Hermann, Houston's largest nonprofit hospital system, has said that its contract rates with the health plan are below current market standards with comparable insurers.

The current contract rates have been in effect since Oct. 1, 1999.

Cigna officials contend Memorial Hermann is asking for terms much steeper than it pays other area hospitals.

Cigna has more than 300,000 enrollees in its health maintenance organization in the Houston area, Beaumont and Corpus Christi.

The plan says about 15 percent of its local members use services provided by the system, which includes

11 hospitals.

If the contract expires, a Cigna member with an ongoing special condition, such as a pregnancy, can continue to receive care at Memorial Hermann hospitals if the health plan gives authorization.

Cigna said it also has contracts with most of Houston's major hospital systems, including HCA, Tenet and facilities in the Texas Medical Center.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:41PM

Port serves as matchmaker in bid for Toyota truck plant

By BILL HENSEL JR.

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San Antonio is getting help in its bid for a \$750 million Toyota Motor Corp. plant from the Port of Houston.

Port officials traveled to Toyota North America's manufacturing headquarters in Kentucky on Monday to make their pitch for why the San Antonio-area plant would be good for the Japanese automaker.

State officials say the factory would generate 16,000 jobs from the plant and supporting businesses.

The factory itself would have an annual payroll of \$265 million.

"These type projects are a win-win for all entities involved," Port Commissioner Jim Fonteno Jr. said.

"It is economic development for San Antonio, and that cargo moving across our docks is good for us."

The proposed site in south Bexar County is one of several sites that Toyota has under consideration for its sixth North American assembly plant, which would be used to make full-size Tundra pickup trucks.

Initially, construction materials and equipment could be moving across the docks if the plant was in San Antonio, Fonteno said.

Then there likely would be an inbound stream of commerce consisting of cargo like automobile parts and imported supplies.

"We are in a position to pick that up," the commissioner said.

Logistics is expected to be a key driver in Toyota's final decision of where to put the plant, said Fonteno, who attended the meeting in Kentucky.

"One issue that had come up was access to the Port of Houston and its logistics capabilities" for moving products by water to complement rail and highway movements, Fonteno said.

Toyota moved entire automobiles through the port until about 10 years ago.

In recent years, many of the shipments have come through ports on the West Coast.

After the West Coast port slowdown late last year, some companies began seeking alternatives to those ports.

As the state's largest port with an ambitious expansion plan under way, port officials have been lobbying for increased business since that time.

Jan. 21, 2003, 9:34PM

Schlumberger write-downs mean \$2.86 billion quarterly loss

Reuters News Service

NEW YORK -- Schlumberger, the world's No. 1 oil-field services company, Tuesday posted a \$2.86 billion loss for the fourth quarter because of a huge charge to restructure two business units.

New York-based Schlumberger posted a fourth-quarter net loss of \$4.92 per share, compared with net income of \$185 million, or 32 cents per share, in the same period of 2001.

Excluding one-time items, the company reported earnings of 25 cents per share. On that basis, analysts had projected results between 26 cents and 35 cents per share with a mean estimate of 31 cents, according to research firm Thomson First Call.

Schlumberger said operating revenues fell 7 percent to \$3.4 billion in the quarter, as oil-field activity continued to slow down.

"Political uncertainty in the Middle East, the strike in Venezuela, and reduced oil company investment in Europe and Africa all contributed to make the business environment in 2002 progressively more difficult," said Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Euan Baird.

The climb in energy prices meant little for the budgets of companies that explore for oil and gas. Given economic uncertainty, exploration and production companies clamped down on capital spending.

During the fourth quarter, Schlumberger took a \$3.2 billion write-off for restructuring of its information technology foray, SchlumbergerSema, and for continuing losses at its WesternGeco seismic unit.

The earnings report was released after the close of trading.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:42PM

Seniority divides mill workers

Imperial machinists petition leaders for vote on contract

By L.M. SIXEL

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Nearly half of the union-represented employees at Imperial Sugar have signed a petition to force the machinists to present a modification of the company's contract proposal to the membership.

Imperial Sugar, which announced last year it was closing its refining operations in Sugar Land and would keep only its packaging and distributions operations, has been trying to modify its contract with the union regarding severance, seniority and other benefits.

"We pay our dues, but we're not given the right to vote," said Sam Damron, a machinist at Imperial Sugar for 21 years.

Damron presented the petition with the names of 161 workers out of a potential 350 to union leaders, whom he said have declined to call for a vote on the proposed change.

Damron said that if it's a bad package and "we want to vote it in, it's our business."

But Todd Rogers, president and directing business representative of District Lodge 37 for the Machinists union, said there is nothing to bring up with the members because the labor contract doesn't expire until October.

In fact, he said, the union filed unfair labor practice charges last week with the National Labor Relations Board, contending Imperial Sugar is improperly negotiating directly with its employees.

Company managers have had meetings with employees about the contract modifications and sent proposals to employees' homes, Rogers said.

The company wants to choose the employees it retains for its packaging and distribution operations instead of going by seniority, and the petition has been driven by those hand-picked employees, Rogers said.

"They've got 'em riled up," he said.

"If the junior people get it overturned, they could keep their jobs."

But that would hurt the more senior employees who'd stand to lose some of their severance pay, he said.

Some of the jobs would be contracted out, and the wages would be cut for some of the employees who stay, he said.

Duffy Smith, executive vice president of Imperial Sugar, said he hasn't seen the labor board's charges but said there are no grounds for any unfair labor practice allegations.

The company has nothing to do with the two petitions that have asked for membership votes, he said. They have both been generated from the factory floor.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:42PM

Hopes for quick end to crisis in Venezuela quickly deflate

By MICHAEL DAVIS

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The first signs emerged Tuesday that the standoff in Venezuela may be coming to some sort of resolution, but by day's end hopes had evaporated on the oil markets.

Venezuelan oil output has come to a virtual standstill since the strike aiming to force President Hugo Chavez from office started in early December.

Behind the rise in prices are the same fears that have driven the oil market for nearly two months: the fear of oil shortages resulting from the continued loss of exports from Venezuela and the possibility of war in Iraq.

The market's tenor changed in midmorning when Reuters prematurely reported that tanker pilots on Lake Maracaibo were close to going back to work. Lake Maracaibo is the largest oil-producing region in Venezuela. Before the strike it was yielding 1.7 million barrels per day.

This report set off speculation that a deal with those who guide tankers from that key oil port could be the first step toward restoring oil exports from one of the biggest suppliers of crude to the United States.

But oil markets closed the day spooked by another warning from the Bush administration to Iraq, suggesting war is in the offing.

The price of crude for February delivery, which had an intraday high in New York of \$35.20, closed 70 cents higher at \$34.61 per barrel. It was the highest closing price since Nov. 30, 2000, when it closed at \$33.82.

Heating oil for February delivery dropped 0.39 cent to 89.47 cents a gallon. February unleaded gasoline fell 1.01 cents to settle at 90.10 cents a gallon.

In London, March Brent closed up 9 cents at \$30.74 a barrel.

Late Tuesday, there were reports out of Caracas that 16 of the 45 pilots had accepted the government's

offer and had returned to work. But U.S. oil markets had closed by then.

There were also indications Tuesday that higher crude prices are working their way into U.S. consumers' wallets.

The U.S. Energy Department reported that the cost for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline has reached its highest level in 16 months.

The national average price for regular unleaded gasoline increased to \$1.46 a gallon, up 35 cents from a year ago.

A gallon of regular unleaded gasoline in Houston was selling for \$1.42 per gallon, according to the AAA.

Even if the pilots agree to a deal, analysts said it would be a largely symbolic victory for the government and Chavez. There would still be many others on strike demanding that Chavez leave office.

"It clearly represents a fissure in the opposition, but the pilots and the work they do in Lake Maracaibo is ancillary," said Paul Doran, senior Latin America analyst with Control Risks Group in London.

"Currently it is unclear how much oil is actually reaching the tankers."

Also on Tuesday, former U.S. President Carter proposed that Venezuela hold a referendum on Chavez in August as a way of ending the strike. Chavez has been resisting efforts to move up the presidential elections from 2006.

As Carter works to mediate a settlement, some were looking for an end to the deadlock.

"This is at a junction where something has to give," said Terry Hallmark, manager of political risk and policy assessment at IHS Energy Group in Houston. "The fact that Chavez was willing to split up Petroleos de Venezuela, one of the best-run national oil companies in the world, is a sign of how serious he is."

Chavez proposed splitting up PDVSA into two, one for the eastern part of the country and another for the west. It was viewed as a ploy to divide striking PDVSA workers in Caracas, where the company now has its headquarters.

If tanker pilots go back to work, it will not lead to an immediate resumption in oil exports because most foreign tankers will not dock at Venezuelan ports over insurance concerns related to the strike.

In the eastern ports of Puerto La Cruz and Jose, where pilots are working, tankers are refusing to dock, citing unsafe conditions.

Even if the strike were to end tomorrow, the damage to some Venezuelan oil fields is irreparable. The country is expected to lose about 400,000 barrels per day of production that cannot be restored, according to a recent report by the International Energy Agency.

"Some fields will take at least one or two months to return to previous production levels. Others face a permanent production capacity loss currently estimated at around 400,000 barrels per day," the agency said in its monthly Oil Market Report.

The International Energy Agency estimates Venezuela now has output capacity of about 2.35 million barrels per day, plus heavy Orinoco oil upgrading capacity of about 500,000 barrels per day.

Low-pressure reservoirs, such as those in Venezuela, suffer more from being shut in than higher-pressure ones, the agency said. Wells producing the heavy oil of eastern Venezuela must be injected with steam to coax the oil out. Many of these wells are believed to be lost for good.

ConocoPhillips has shut in about 170,000 barrels of oil per day at its two major Venezuelan projects, Petrozuata and Hamaca.

In another sign of the strike's effect, Citgo Petroleum Corp., a U.S. refiner owned by Venezuela's national oil company, said it will cut discretionary capital spending by \$200 million this year to help avoid a cash shortage.

The Tulsa-based company will continue to review the timing and amount of capital spending, even after the budget cut, Citgo said in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Jan. 21, 2003, 9:32PM

Initial report to stay sealed until Feb. 14

By ERIC BERGER

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The examiner in Enron's bankruptcy submitted an investigative report Tuesday to the judge overseeing the case, Enron and its creditors committee.

The report, which is reviewing the role banks and law firms may have played in Enron's collapse, will remain sealed from public view until at least Feb. 14 by court order.

Enron and its creditors will use the intervening time to review the report and ask the judge to blacken out certain parts, such as those including attorney-client privilege, in the version released to the public.

As examiner, Atlanta lawyer Neal Batson has spent at least \$20 million preparing the report, which some experts believe will provide the clearest picture yet of wrongdoing by Enron and others. He issued hundreds of subpoenas to banks and law firms.

An initial report filed four months ago suggested several large banks played a role in Enron's collapse by helping the company disguise loans as asset sales.

The second report is expected to be much more detailed, and play a significant role in deciding if any of Enron's creditors should have their claims reduced for playing a part in its downfall.

Also eagerly awaiting release of the report are the lawyers for shareholders suing Enron, its banks and law firms.

Jan. 21, 2003, 9:34PM

Accountant term limits ready for OK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Federal regulators, ordered by Congress to make accountants more independent from companies they audit, have eased an earlier proposal after opposition from accountants and corporations.

The new Securities and Exchange Commission proposal would prohibit the two most senior partners on a team, and other significant partners, auditing a firm from working on that company's books for more than five or seven years. The SEC is expected to adopt the rule today.

A proposal that the SEC issued for public review in November extended the requirement for job rotation to all partners on a team.

Still, SEC officials say, the new rule goes beyond what was mandated -- rotation only of the top two partners -- in a sweeping law enacted last summer.

In addition, the new rule adds a requirement that affected partners stay away from a company account for five years, in addition to the limit on working on it.

Barbara Roper, director of investor protection for the Consumer Federation of America, said if the agency had kept the broader ban, "it would have made this a fairly significant reform."

Even the all-partner ban was less stringent than a requirement to change firms, rather than individual auditors, which was advocated by several congressional Democrats.

Jan. 21, 2003, 10:40PM

Warmer weather cools natural gas rally

Bloomberg Business News

NEW YORK -- Natural gas futures declined Tuesday on expectations that warmer weather beginning next week in the Midwest and East will lead to slower heating demand after a recent cold snap.

Temperatures in Illinois will be above normal from Sunday through Feb. 3 and reach normal to above normal in other areas of the Midwest and Northeast, the National Weather Service said.

"We may stay firm for a day or two, but not too much longer. We're running out of winter," said Edward Kennedy, a trader with Commercial Brokerage Corp. in Miami.

Gas for February delivery fell 10.3 cents, or 1.9 percent, to \$5.433 per thousand cubic feet on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Prices on Friday fell 1.9 percent to \$5.536, dropping from a 23-month closing high of \$5.645 on Thursday. They still were up 29 percent since the end of November and have more than doubled from a year earlier.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:37PM

Overdraft coverage skirts credit laws

New York Times

At least 1,000 banks are encouraging customers with low balances to overdraw their checking accounts, allowing the banks to skirt credit laws and collect billions of dollars in new fees.

The banks say the programs, which cover bounced checks and even allow people to overdraw their accounts with ATM and debit cards, are a service to their customers. But many inside and outside the banking business say the programs are a bad deal for consumers and amount to high-interest loans.

The new "overdraft protection" programs are much more expensive and restrictive than the overdraft lines of credit that banks have offered for decades to favored clients who have big balances or other accounts with them.

Unlike those lines of credit, which typically charge annual interest of up to 20 percent, the new programs charge flat fees for each overdraft that translate into an annual rate of 1,000 percent or more.

Jan. 21, 2003, 9:57PM

American's unions still unconvinced

Associated Press

FORT WORTH -- Amid signs of worsening financial conditions at American Airlines, union leaders have not answered a request for wage concessions and say company executives have no plan for repairing the troubled carrier.

A meeting this week designed to improve relations between management and labor went badly, according to participants.

Labor relations is only one challenge facing the world's largest airline. American's parent company is expected to announce today that it posted another huge loss in the fourth quarter. The airline lost nearly \$3 billion in the first nine months of last year.

Airline officials say American is losing millions each day and must borrow to meet payroll.

Chairman and Chief Executive Donald Carty has said American must cut \$4 billion in annual costs but has identified only about half of those savings by cutting flights, mothballing planes and laying off employees.

Carty has said restructuring of labor agreements "is inevitable and fundamental" to returning American to profitability.

Union officials fear employees will be asked to bear most of the cost-cutting burden. They say company officials failed during a closed-door meeting Monday to spell out plans for improving the airline's fortunes.

Jan. 22, 2003, 12:37AM

Auto mechanics can tally votes on union

By L.M. SIXEL

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle

Auto mechanics at Mike Calvert Toyota will count ballots on a vote to unionize its workers Thursday after a three-month delay.

The go-ahead to count the votes comes after the National Labor Relations Board rejected the dealer's argument that mechanics at Davis Chevrolet next door, which shares some of the same owners as Mike Calvert, should be included in the union vote.

The two groups of employees don't work together, don't share the same supervisors or cross-train, the board said in rejecting Mike Calvert's argument.

The election of about 30 mechanics was conducted Oct. 9, but the labor board impounded the votes when the dealer raised its objections.

"I'm just hoping that the guys voted the way they said they did," said Mark Hammond, who's expecting a victory.

Hammond is the district organizer for the Machinists union trying to organize hundreds of automobile repair shops around the nation.

"If we can win and get a good contract, they're should be a domino effect at the other dealerships," said Hammond, who said he's already talking to employees at several local dealerships about joining the union.

Robert Bekken, the California attorney representing Mike Calvert Toyota, said, "If for some incredible reason we're nonvictorious, we still have the right to refuse to bargain with the union and appeal it to federal appeals court."

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:38PM

Local earnings

BJ Services reported that fiscal first-quarter earnings were about half the size of a year ago because of weak demand for drilling services. Its U.S. and Mexico pressure pumping revenues were off 22 percent, while international pressure pumping revenues declined 4 percent. Qtr. to Dec. 31 2002 2001

Revenues 473,124,000 510,061,000

Net income 33,470,000 66,941,000

Per share 0.21 0.42

BJ Services is a leading provider of pressure pumping and other oil-field services.

Pogo Producing Co. said its successful drilling program in 2002 enabled the company to replace its reserves through production for the 11th consecutive quarter. Qtr. to Dec. 31 2002 2001

Revenues 215,531,000 128,075,000

Net income 37,751,000 1,426,000

Per share (basic) 0.62 0.03

Per share (diluted) 0.60 0.03

Full year 2002 2001

Revenues 746,988,000 596,077,000

Net income 107,031,000 87,954,000

Per share (basic) 1.85 1.72

Per share (diluted) 1.77 1.62

(Figures in parentheses are losses.) Pogo Producing is an independent oil company.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:02PM

Security Alert

HOAX -- SERIAL KILLER: A hoax e-mail purports to warn women about a serial killer in the Baton Rouge, La., area who is luring victims by playing a recording of a baby crying outside their homes. The hoax plays on the fact that police believe there is indeed a serial killer preying on women in that city, but the killer does not use a recording of a crying baby to get them outside.

Source: Snopes.com

ARTICLE -- HOME COMPUTER SECURITY: CIAC -- the Computer Incident Advisory Capability of the federal government's National Nuclear Security Administration -- has released a document to help home computer users understand the issues surrounding security of PCs connected to the Internet. The document, available only as an Adobe Acrobat PDF file, is at www.ciac.org/ciac/.

Source: CIAC.

Jan. 21, 2003, 11:35PM

Update

Along with the Windows Media Player 9 (see last week's Update column, www.chron.com/update), Microsoft is offering an upgrade to the movie editing software that comes with Windows XP.

Available through the Windows Update feature of Windows XP, Windows Movie Maker 2 is an overhaul of the software initially introduced with Windows ME. However, there is no ME version of this newest release.

The program's interface has been overhauled to include a simplified storyboard as well as a timeline for editing tracks. There are dozens of new special effects and transitions, as well as many different ways to handle titles and credits.

But perhaps the most interesting new feature is called AutoMovie, in which the computer analyzes available video clips and music you select and puts them together, effectively creating a music video.

Hide Folders XP 1.3, which lets you conceal individual folders in Windows XP, is now at www.fspro.net/hfxp/index.html ... A new version of the Intel Chipset Installation Utility, for installing new software for Intel-based motherboards, is at support.intel.com/support/chipsets/inf/ ... Version 1.0.2 of iCal, Apple's calendar software for the Mac OS X, is now at docs.info.apple.com/article.html?artnum=120148.

Editor's note: Read carefully about any patch before downloading it. Back up the data before applying a patch.

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

technology update

Update is a column devoted to helping you find the latest patches, upgrades and drivers for your personal computer. It appears each Wednesday in the Houston Chronicle's Business section. Because software fixes change so frequently, only the last three months of the Update column are archived here.

UPDATE ARCHIVES

Jan. 22, 2003

Windows Media Player 9 • Hide Folders XP 1.3
• Intel Chipset Installation Utility • 1.0.2 of iCal for Mac OS X

Jan. 15, 2003

Windows Media Player 9 • Windows 2000/XP drivers • Catalyst 3.0 drivers • Microsoft Office v.X for the Mac OS X

Jan. 8, 2003

DirectX 9 • Windows Media Player 9 • Version 4.0 of Zero Popup • Version 3.5 of the Internet Connection Monitor for Mac

Jan. 1, 2003

Windows XP driver rollback • Creative Labs Audigy 2 drivers for Windows XP • SiSoft Sandra 2003 • Tex-Edit Plus 4.4

Dec. 18, 2002

Radeon graphics cards drivers • All-In-Wonder TV-tuner cards driver • Adaptec USB 2.0 drivers

Dec. 11, 2002

Dead Aim • Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer • WebcamXP Free • Microtek's scanner drivers for Mac OS X

Dec. 4, 2002

MusicMatch Jukebox • Version 1.2.1 of Mozilla browser • Version 9.75 of Logitech's Mouseware drivers • Speed Download 1.9.3 for for Mac

Nov. 27, 2002

Anti-Leech pop-up blocker • Version 3.5 of WindowBlinds • RealOne Player 2.0 • Version 7.0.1 of BBEdit for Mac

SEARCH CHRONICLE TECHNOLOGY ARCHIVES:

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The Homegrown PC:

Don't buy your next PC - build it! It's easier than you think, and to make the process even more painless, we've put together an [interactive tutorial](#).



**Computing
column:
Dwight
Silverman**

RESOURCES

• [Big Pipes](#) - Guide to high-speed Internet

• [PC Specs](#) - Computer shoppers' guide

• [Tech Support](#) - Troubleshooting tips and tricks

• [Dwight Silverman's home page](#)

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U.S. papers](#)

Nov. 20, 2002

Catalyst version 2.4 • WinDVD version 4 •
NVDVD 2.20 • iPulse 1.0 for Mac OS X

Nov. 13, 2002

Motherboard upgrades • Windows MovieMaker 2
beta version • Kazaa Media Desktop Version 2.02
• Mac OS X 10.2.2

Nov. 6, 2002

Windows XP compatibility box • Eudora Pro 5.2
final • HyperSnap-DX 5.01.01 • StreamRipper
1.03 for Macintosh

October 30, 2002

Chimera • Roxio's Easy CD Creator Platinum
update • Intel Application Accelerator 2.3
• QuickTime 6.0.2

October 23, 2002

Adobe Acrobat Version 5.1 • Windows Messenger
for Windows XP

October 16, 2002

Eudora Pro 5.2 beta 5 • Matrox Parhelia graphics
card drivers • Quake III Arena 1.32 • LapCop
1.0 for Macintosh

October 9, 2002

Pop-up killers • nVidia-based graphics cards
drivers • Version 1.11 of DVD Region-Free •
Version 3.1 of the ZoneAlarm Pro • Apple's
AirPort wireless base station firmware

October 2, 2002

McAfee VirusScan 7.0 • nVidia-based graphics
cards drivers • Yahoo Messenger 5.5 • Eudora
Pro 5.2 beta • Lexmark Z43 printer drivers for
Mac

September 25, 2002

Easy CD Creator Platinum 5.3 service pack •
Epson Stylus Color 980 drivers • Microsoft's
IntelliPoint mouse update • Microsoft's IntelliPoint
keyboard update • StuffIt Standard Edition for
Mac

September 18, 2002

AIM 5.0 • Unreal Tournament 2003 • ATI's
Radeon 9700 Pro graphics card drivers • Version
3.41 of WindowBlinds • Mac OS X 10.X patch

September 11, 2002

Windows Media Player 9 beta • HyperSnap DX 5
beta • Microsoft Dungeon Siege patch •
Internet Explorer 6 Service Pack 1 • HP DeskJet
940c drivers for Mac OS X 10.2

September 4, 2002

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XP Service Pack 1 • Netscape 7.0 • Roxio's
Easy CD Creator Platinum upgrade • Drivers for
nVidia-based graphics cards • Drivers for Mac OS
X 10.2

August 28, 2002

Office XP Service Pack 2 • Mozilla 1.1 •
Adobe's Photoshop 7.0 update • Version 9.73
Logitech Mouseware drivers • New version
Microsoft's Handheld Synchronization for Entourage
X

August 21, 2002

Installation routines • Zero Popup 3.1 •
Iomega drivers 4.0 for Windows 2000/XP •
Morpheus 2.0 for Windows • AOL for Mac OS X
10.x

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Wednesday, January 22, 2003 Updated 8:12 a.m. CST

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TODAY'S TOP STORIES

Strong earthquake rocks Mexico City; 21 killed in state of Colima

A deadly earthquake rocked west-central Mexico Tuesday night, cutting power and communications and sending worried residents pouring into the streets.

- [Terremoto remece ciudad de México](#)
- [Noticias, deportes y más de Houston Chronicle](#)



Associated Press

Colima resident Manuel Nestas assesses the damage to his house early today after a powerful earthquake struck the Mexican state Tuesday.

[Bush impatient with growing U.N. opposition](#)

[In-laws walk with Clara Harris to court](#)

[Local activists pay price for convictions](#)

[Some potential jurors confused by Bradford case](#)

[Political winds may stir change in abortion laws](#)

[Morales' kin admits plan to extort Sanchez](#)

[Hispanics now largest U.S. minority group](#)

OTHER NEWS

Metropolitan

- [County plans to sue dry cleaners over pollution](#)
- [Grandmother thwarts dog attack, saves boy](#)
- [Red Cross is facing emergency of its own](#)
- [Another round of freezing weather on the way](#)

State

- [Mentally ill Texas man will seek clemency](#)

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 LEGISLATURE**

street fashion Student dons **New York City** fashions for a night out. Requires [Flash 6](#) player.

SCOREBOARD

NBA:

[Mavericks 107,](#)[Rockets 86](#)

TODAY IN HOUSTON

WEATHER:

**High:** 59°**Low:** 33°**Current:** 52°

Overcast

Humidity: 76%**Wind:** North 16**Pollen:** Moderate**Ozone:** No warning

GETTING AROUND

- [Road closings](#)

East Freeway:

Westbound exit ramp to Eastex Freeway southbound closed (detour to northbound Eastex Freeway to Collingsworth and U-turn to southbound Eastex Freeway).

- [Real-time traffic](#)

JUST FOR FUN

• **[Syncopation](#):** Allan Knee's play set in 1911 New York about a young man who dreams of becoming a ballroom dancer and the woman he finds for a partner. At 7:30 p.m. at Stages Repertory Theatre. Call 713-527-0123.

ON TV:

- [Two Towns of](#)

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- [Governor Perry promises 'a better tomorrow'](#)
- [Call for reservists strains smaller police forces](#)
- [They can clone a cat, but they can't copy one yet](#)

Nation

- [Bush budget offers no Medicaid relief](#)
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- [2 killed, 3 injured in West Virginia mine explosion](#)
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- [NASA seeking a few good teachers](#)

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- [Iraq says it shot down unmanned U.S. spy plane](#)
- [India expels four Pakistani embassy officials](#)
- [Korean dispute may be referred to Security Council](#)
- [Carter offers proposal for Venezuela elections](#)
- [One American slain, another wounded in Kuwait](#)
- [Fugitive recaptured after escape from Monaco jail](#)

Sports

- [Mavericks cash in on Rockets' miscues](#)
- [Raiders, Buccaneers pit best of best](#)
- [Dierker treated after reaction to medicine](#)
- [Conradt still going strong with 800th win near](#)
- [UH baseball coach Bragg Stockton dies at 64](#)
- [Serena Williams, Clijsters advance to semifinals](#)

Business

- [Warmer weather cools natural gas rally](#)
- [Energizer going right into razor business](#)
- [Kinder Morgan tests market for pipeline growth](#)
- [U.S. stocks to be stung by Iraq, profit outlook](#)
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Arts and Entertainment

- ['Bachelorette' has her choices narrowed to eight](#)
- [Writer Antwone Fisher reaches out to troubled kids](#)
- [Once-famous get another chance with reality shows](#)
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- ['Osbournes' ratings take a downward spiral](#)

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Jasper: *P.O.V.*

presents the film by Whitney Dow and Marco Williams at 8 and 10 p.m. on PBS. It's followed by Ernie Manouse's interview with Stella Byrd, mother of the slain James Byrd Jr. at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m.

• [TV listings](#)

The Inside Story:

The scoop on The Chronicle.

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COMING THIS WEEK

It's not the Antiques Roadshow, but for many Houstonians the bi-monthly appraisal event at Hart Antique and Design Center solves their antiques and art mysteries.

Friday in Houston.

INSIDE

2002: Year in Review: A

look at the good, the bad and the follies.

The Homegrown PC:

Don't buy your next PC - build it! It's easier than you think, and to make the process even more painless, we've put together an [interactive tutorial](#).



Q&A: Ask NFL writer John McClain a

question about the Texans or the NFL. We'll post his [answers to the best questions](#).

The News Bizarre:

Check out the news that's odd, funny or just downright weird.

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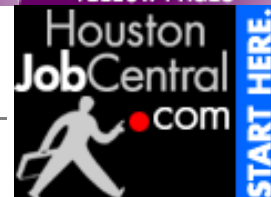
• **What is included?**

The text of news articles from Chronicle writers and major wire services appearing in The Chronicle starting in 1985. Our ThisWeek database includes content from October 1997 through February 2000; ThisWeek content starting March 1, 2000 is included in The Houston Chronicle database.

• **What is not included?**

Archives does not include photographs, classifieds ads, paid death notices, or opinion essays from the Outlook section of the newspaper. The Houston Post archives are no longer available online.

• **Looking for information about the "Kevin Archer" Email Hoax?**



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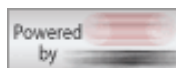
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Chronicle's electronic direct marketing programs identify the category of subscribers who would most likely be interested in their goods and services. The Chronicle then forwards the advertisements to subscribers who have elected to receive that category of electronic mail. Subscribers may elect to not receive similar electronic mail by requesting that its e-mail address be removed from the mailing list by selecting the appropriate option included with each e-mail advertisement sent by The Chronicle. In addition, subscribers may elect to be removed from such lists at any time by sending a message to the System administrator at webmaster@chron.com.

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Wednesday, January 22, 2003 Updated 6:47 AM

Sports

BY E-MAIL: You can receive this section by e-mail.

Associated Press

A Maverick on the run

The Mavericks' Steve Nash drives past Cuttino Mobley of the Rockets for a basket during the first quarter Tuesday night in Dallas. The Mavericks ended a three-game losing streak by defeating the Rockets 107-86.

Full report

Top Sports Stories

- [Mavericks cash in on Rockets' miscues](#)

Using a man-to-man defense most of the night, the Mavericks rolled to a 107-86 victory over the Houston Rockets Tuesday night in Dallas.

- [Blinebury: When away, there's no will](#)

- [Raiders, Buccaneers pit best of best](#)

The outcome of Super Bowl XXXVII could be determined by how Oakland's No. 1 offense fares against Tampa Bay's No. 1 defense -- the Raiders' irresistible force vs. the Buccaneers' immovable object.

- [Hype machine turns out goofy product with big game near](#)
- [Robertson: Raider Nation won't get the welcome wagon](#)

- [Dierker treated after reaction to medicine](#)

Former Astros manager Larry Dierker was treated at a Houston hospital Tuesday after suffering what a hospital official described as a "mild reaction" to medication. Dierker, 55, was released from Bellaire Medical Center, 5314 Dashwood, after consulting with his primary care physician, Dr. Richard Swenson, a hospital spokeswoman said.

- [Conradt still going strong with 800th win near](#)

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NBA:[Mavericks 107,](#)[Rockets 86](#)

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Jody Conradt is trying to become the second women's college coach and fifth major coach overall to reach 800 victories when her Texas Longhorns take on Tech Tech tonight at the Erwin Center in Austin.

- [Serena Williams, Clijsters advance to semifinals](#)
Serena Williams reached the Australian Open semifinals with a 6-2, 6-2 victory today over Meghann Shaughnessy, whose drop shot led to the twisted ankle that kept Williams out of last year's tournament.
- [Top USOC officials urge president to resign](#)
- [UH's Stockton dies at 64](#)

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Trace Adkins entered rehab over the holidays



Associated Press

Country singer Trace Adkins says he voluntarily entered and completed a 28-day alcohol rehabilitation program during the holidays.

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David's music transcends borders, genres



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New shows let once-famous faces return



The stuff of burritos

Daniel Vargas looks at fixings that tip the scales while Alison Cook presents the case against these monstrous mutants

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fashions for a night out. Requires [Flash 6](#) player.

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Wednesday, January 22, 2003 Updated 8:21 AM

Business Finance & Markets**BY E-MAIL:** You can receive this section [by e-mail](#).**The Chronicle 100:** Houston's top businesses**Hopes for end to crisis in Venezuela deflate****Associated Press**

Petroleos de Venezuela workers on strike meet near the oil tanker Morichal on Lake Maracaibo in western Venezuela earlier this month. The strike has forced crude prices to their highest levels since November 2000.

- **Court says providers must name swappers**

Internet providers must abide by music industry requests to track down computer users who illegally download music, a federal judge ruled Tuesday in a case that could dramatically increase online pirates' risk of being caught.

- **Wherehouse music retailer seeks bankruptcy protection**

Music retailer Wherehouse Entertainment

Tuesday said it filed for bankruptcy protection as it struggles to gain a foothold with consumers, increasingly turning to the Web to build music collections.

- **Alliance carriers buck stipulations**

The Transportation Department said Tuesday it will file an enforcement action against Continental, Delta and Northwest airlines to halt their proposed alliance. The airlines' decision to go forward with the alliance and ignore some stipulations the agency demanded last week triggered the department's action.

- **Kinder Morgan tests market for pipeline growth**

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners said Tuesday it would like to build a natural gas pipeline across Arizona and is looking into significantly expanding two others. The

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proposed lines are designed to carry natural gas from the San Juan and Rocky Mountain basins, where gas supplies are large, to the fuel-hungry Midwest and Phoenix.

- **[Energizer going right into razor business](#)**

The Energizer Bunny is going and going and going into the razor blade business. Energizer Holdings said Tuesday it would buy Schick-Wilkinson Sword, the world's No. 2 razor and blade maker, from Pfizer for \$930 million in cash, adding a second product line and diversifying from the sluggish battery market.

- **[U.S. stocks to be stung by Iraq, profit outlook](#)**

Stocks were set for a slightly weaker start today as Wall Street wades through a flood of earnings reports from corporate heavyweights, while the threat of war continues to loom.

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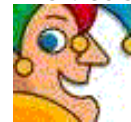
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you, [read this informative overview](#) of area neighborhoods and communities from the 1999 Greater Houston Partnership's *Here Is Houston*. Or, choose a part of town that interests you:

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Detailed property information from Landata Information Services

Enter a specific address and receive detailed information on the property and a map of the surrounding neighborhood.

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"Relocation Tools"

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Find out how much you would need to make in your new city to keep your current lifestyle

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This Week's Small Business Stories

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They say if you build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door. Houston-based Extremetix thinks the better trap in the developing print-your-own-ticket market is its ClicknPrint Tickets system.

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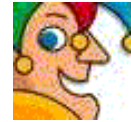
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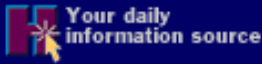
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9 Chickweed Lane -- (17K) or (9K)	Apartment 3-G
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B.C. -- (15K) or (7K)	Better Half
Baldo -- (30K) or (15K)	Between Friends
Ballard Street -- (16K) or (8K)	Bizarro
Big Picture -- (41K) or (19K)	Blondie
Boffo -- (20K) or (10K)	Buckles
Boondocks -- (21K) or (11K)	Crankshaft
Cathy -- (33K) or (15K)	Crock
Charlie -- (30K) or (14K)	Curtis
Cleats -- (32K) or (15K)	Dennis the Menace
Close to Home -- (17K) or (9K)	Dinette Set
Committed -- (12K) or (6K)	Edge City
Dick Tracy -- (25K) or (13K)	Family Circus
Dilbert -- (17K) or (9K)	Fast Track
Doonesbury -- (30K) or (15K)	Funky Winkerbean
Drabble -- (23K) or (12K)	Grin and Bear It
For Better or Worse -- (40K) or (18K)	Hagar the Horrible
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Fred Basset -- (29K) or (13K)	Judge Parker
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Garfield -- (20K) or (10K)	Mallard Fillmore
Gasoline Alley -- (28K) or (13K)	Mark Trail
Geech -- (26K) or (13K)	Marvin
Gil Thorp -- (28K) or (14K)	Mary Worth
Heart of the City -- (34K) or (17K)	Mother Goose & Grimm
Heathcliff -- (17K) or (9K)	Mutts
Herb & Jamaal -- (27K) or (14K)	New Breed
Jumble -- (17K) or (9K)	Pardon My Planet
Kudzu -- (18K) or (9K)	Phantom
La Cucaracha -- (32K) or (15K)	Popeye
Lola -- (16K) or (8K)	Piranha Club
Luann -- (29K) or (14K)	Redeye
Marmaduke -- (21K) or (10K)	Rex_Morgan
Momma -- (24K) or (12K)	Rhymes with Orange
Monty -- (26K) or (13K)	Safe Havens
Non Sequitur -- (27K) or (13K)	Sally_Forth
One Big Happy -- (30K) or (15K)	Sherman's Lagoon
Peanuts -- (15K) or (7K)	Six Chix
Pearls Before Swine -- (24K) or (12K)	Slylock Fox
Pluggers -- (19K) or (9K)	Snuffy Smith
Preteena -- (23K) or (12K)	Spiderman
Quigmans -- (12K) or (6K)	Steve Roper
Real Life Adventures -- (16K) or (8K)	The Norm
Rose is Rose -- (27K) or (14K)	They'll do it Everytime
Rubes -- (19K) or (9K)	Tiger
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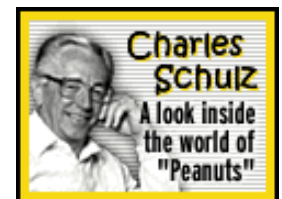
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Arts

- **The Bayou City Blues Drum & Bugle Corps** is seeking additional members to participate in their hornline, drumline and color guard. The group rehearses every Friday, 7:30 to 10 p.m., at Sharpstown High School, 7504 Bissonet St., and performs on a regular basis in parades and field shows. Call 713-756-9288, or visit www.bayoucityblues.org for additional information.
- Visit the **Houston Maritime Museum** now open at 2204 Dorrington near Holcombe and South Main. Exhibits include more than 50 historic ship models, maps, prints and historical relics. Additional features include a gift shop, lecture hall, library and "The Ship Yard" where a museum representative creates and restores historical model ships. Lectures can be scheduled for all age groups. Admission is free. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F and by appointment. Call 713-666-1910.

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Churches, synagogues and other places of worship

- **Cypress Creek Christian Church** is offering a workshop for engaged couples and newly-weds on Nov. 9 and 10, 2001. The workshop is based on the book "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts -- Seven

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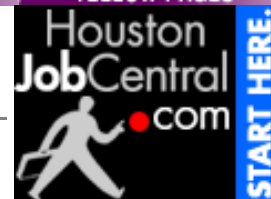
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77002

Questions to Ask Before (and After) You Marry" by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott. Cost is \$100 and includes materials and workbooks and meals. Contact: the Gallatins at 281-370-4181 or the Church at 281-376-7113

- **Mt. Ararat Baptist Church**, located at 5801 West Montgomery Road, is sponsoring a Veterans Recognition Program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2001. The program will feature a theatrical performance entitled, "Ain't Nobody Gone Turn Me 'Round" by members of the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. For additional information, call 713-692-9974.

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Civic functions and news

- **The First Ward Civic Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Impact Church of Christ, 1704 Weber, on the corner of Weber and Colorado. Meetings start at 6 p.m. All neighbors are welcome. Current projects include canvassing for approval of a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone and for a Historic District Designation. For more information, call Bert Tibbits @713-228-5604.
- **The Washington Avenue Coalition (WAC)** meets the second Monday of the Month at Leo's on Washington at 6 p.m. It is open to all residents and businesses along the corridor. The coalition is comprised of Neighborhood Civic Associations along the Washington Avenue Corridor and those along the Houston Avenue Corridor. The neighborhoods are the First Ward Civic Council, Magnolia Grove Civic Club, Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association, West End Business Group, West End Civic Club, and Woodcrest Civic Association. The coalition seeks to work together to beautify the Washington Avenue Corridor and the Houston Avenue Corridor; to foster stronger community relationships; and to define neighborhood goals and issues.
- The **Old Sixth Ward Community Development Corporation** has changed its name to **Avenue Community Development Corporation**. The name change reflects the changes in the boundaries of the areas it services. These are all the neighborhoods along Washington Avenue including the Old Sixth Ward, the First Ward, Woodcrest, Cottage Grove, Rice Military, West End, and Magnolia Grove. For more information about how to help this non-profit corporation, please call Phil Huval at (713) 864-8099.

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Clubs and associations

- **American Business Women's Association, League City Charter Chapter**, is a group of career-minded professionals who support the goals of the organization.

help families, the homeless, the environment and more.



Looking for crime statistics in your neighborhood? The [Houston Police](#)

[Department](#) is at your service. Its new site offers dated reports, plus a whole lot more.

The [United Way](#) distributes money to a wide range of local groups serving many community needs. To discover more about the contributions of these varied groups, the [United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast](#), or visit our [profiles of United Way agencies](#).

ABWA's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. The League City Charter Chapter meets on the third Thursday of every month at the South Shore Harbour Country Club at 4300 South Shore Blvd, in League City. For additional information on ABWA, search the ABWA national organization Web site at <http://www.abwahq.org>, the League City Charter Chapter Web site at <http://www.abwa-lccc.org>, or contact Mary C. Thomas, 281-483-1091.

- **American Business Women's Association, Odyssey Charter Chapter**, is a group of career-minded professionals who support the goals of the organization. ABWA's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others group personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. The Odyssey Charter Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Baybrook Mall Olive Garden Restaurant. For additional information on ABWA, search the ABWA national organization Web site at <http://www.abwahq.org> or contact Nancy Hutchins, 281-482-5607.
- **The 1960 Area Singles Group** meets at 7 p.m. each Friday evening at Rick's Loft on the corner of FM 1960 West and T.C. Jester. Upcoming events include sailing, a boating/picnic/camping week-end ,and a fundraiser for a local women's and children's shelter. For more information contact For more information contact Sue at 281/586-8045 or Mary at 281/580-6279.
- **The 1960 PC Users Group** is a local computer support group just waiting to help you learn more about your PC and become more productive using it. The group is a community organization serving residents of the Houston area. General meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors of all ages are welcome. For more information visit <http://www.1960pcug.org> or call 713-788-0683.
- **Ad 2 Houston**, a non-profit professional organization for people 18-31 in the communications industry, is seeking new members. For more information, please contact Kathryn Giansanti, membership director, at 713-862-2006.
- **The After Hours Network** sponsors many programs. For more information, call Jon E. King a 981-9595.
- **The WINGS Chapter of ABWA (American Business Womens Association)** is a group of career-minded professionals who support the goals of the group and each other. WINGS is an acronym for "Women Involved Nurturing Growth & Support." ABWA's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. For general membership information, visit the Web site at <http://www.fhpbw.org/abwa-wings> or

contact Cathy James via e-mail at cmjdaj@swbell.net.

- **The Association of Authors and Publishers**, a non-profit group, meets the first Thursday of each month at St Mark's Episcopal Church, 3816 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, Texas 77005. Networking begins at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting is from 7-8 pm. AAP is comprised of authors (and would-be authors), editors, artists, printers, publishers, self-publishers, marketers, distributors, booksellers --- anyone associated with the production, developing, marketing and distribution of books. Our speakers bring valuable information about all aspects of book publishing and marketing and about being a publishing entrepreneur. Topics have included co-publishing ventures, auxiliary product lines, getting booked on radio shows and marketing your book before it's printed. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit the AAP web site at <http://www.authorsandpublishers.org> or contact John Martin at editor@boldcreative.com or call him at (713)690-2653.
- **The Association of Internet Professionals** is seeking members in Houston. For more information, contact Amy Tatge, 713-850-7751 or <http://www.association.org>
- **The Bellaire Area Mothers of Multiples** invites all area mothers and expectant mothers of twins or higher-order multiples to attend its monthly meeting, held the second Wednesday of each month. BAMOM is a non-profit support group affiliated with Texas Mothers of Multiples and the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. It draws members from the Bellaire, West University and Meyerland/SW Houston area. The club is dedicated to offering supportive networking, education, and research to its members. Prospective members may receive a complimentary issue of the club newsletter by contacting Colleen Gold at (713) 665-1217.
- **The Cherokee Cultural Society of Houston**, meets each first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group, 500 Lovett, Suite 100, a block south of Westheimer and three blocks east of Montrose. Fascinating programs and speakers focus on Cherokee heritage and current events. Meetings are open to all who are interested; no admission fee. For more information call 713-866-4085, or visit the group's [Web site](#).
- **Child Care Professionals of Houston**, a group of registered child care providers, meets at 7:15 p.m. the fourth Thursday of every month at the Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Copperfield. For more information, call (281) 463-4049 or (281) 550-5204.
- **The Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC)** is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. CLARC was founded in 1987 and is an ARRL Special Services Club. Monthly meetings held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Webster Volunteer Fire Department 17100 Texas Avenue. VE test sessions, and Newsletter. We offer training for people who want to obtain their Amateur Radio (HAM) licenses. Information on CLARC can be found at www.clarc.org.
- **The Clear Lake Communicators** holds its weekly Toastmasters meeting every week on Thursday. This is a

daytime lunch meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (You can bring your brown bag lunch if you desire) The meeting location is at the Wyle Laboratories at 1100 Hercules, Suite 305, Houston, TX (In Clear Lake across the street from the Carlson Wagonlit Travel agency). For more information on a friendly and great way to meet people, learn on how to improve your speaking skills, and network, Call Allen Prescott at 281-282-3281 or e-mail allen.e.prescott@usahq.unitedspacealliance.com.

- **The Civil Air Patrol - Sugar Land Composite Squadron** meets on Tuesday evenings at Hanger 108 on the West side of Sugar Land Airport. Meetings are open to the public, and anyone with an interest in aerospace or emergency services is invited to attend. Cadet members will receive nine free orientation flights in a Civil Air Patrol aircraft. The Civil Air Patrol's Cadet program is designed to provide youth ages 12 - 18 with a high quality program that enhances their leadership skills through an interest in aviation, and simultaneously provide services to the United States Air Force and the local community. For more information, call Martin Wehmeier, the squadron's public affairs officer, at 281-438-0728.
- **The Davy Crockett Dulcimer Society** holds an night of fun and great music on the fourth Saturday night of each month at the Wooden Nickel Restaurant in Crockett, Texas. Anyone who plays an acoustical instrument or just enjoys good family music is welcome. At 4 p.m. the club offers beginners and advanced classes on playing the mountain dulcimer. At 7 p.m. the jam starts and continues until 10 p.m.. There is no charge to attend this festival of music that encompasses blue grass, folk, gospel, and traditional favorite tunes. For more information, see the club web site at <http://www.intrastar.net/~tmason/davy.htm>
- **Easthaven Civic Club Inc.** meets the second Monday of each month except December at the Easthaven Baptist Church, 9321 Easthaven St., in the old chapel. Enter under the bell.
- **The Esperanto Society of Houston** meets at 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Meetings are held in conference room 2 of the Julia Ideson building across from the main Houston Public Library building downtown. Several activities in Esperanto are planned for each meeting. Esperanto is an international language designed to break down communication barriers among peoples while preserving their cultural identity. For more information, call president Gil Guillory at (281) 362-8061 or (713) 753-2724 or email him at gil@intergate.com
- **The Fort Bend County Chapter of American Business Women's Association** meets the first Thursday of each month at the Quail Valley Country Club in Missouri City. For more information, see the group's Web Page at <http://www.compassnet.com/lornas/abwa.html> or send email to lornas@compassnet.com.
- **Galveston County Gem & Mineral Club** meets each first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas City Nessler Civic Center (2010 5th Ave. No.) for rockhounds of all ages to share their common love of gems and minerals. Call 409-938-0718 or 409-938-7607 for more

information.

- **The Greenspoint Chapter of the American Business Women's Association** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Greenspoint Club, 16925 Northchase Dr. Call (713) 868-1333 for further information.
- **Guitar Houston** is a non-profit 501© organization dedicated to promoting the classical guitar and historically related plucked instruments like the lute. GH has monthly performance meetings that are free and open to public. In addition, GH also presents world-class classical guitarists in a yearly concert series. Membership includes a monthly newsletter, free masterclass attendance, concert ticket discounts and access to private lessons with top players from around the world. For more information visit the Web site at <http://www.guitarhouston.org>.
- **Habitat for Humanity Galveston** meets at Rosenberg Library 2310 Sealey, Galveston (763-8854 -- library number). Please join us in helping to eliminate substandard housing in our area. Meetings are at 6 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and 9 a.m. on the 4th Saturday of the month For further information or directions, please call Robin O'Toole (409)-747-1886 or e-mail robin.otoole@UTMB.edu
- **The Houston Chapter of American Production & Inventory Control Society**, the Educational Society for Resource Management, holds Professional Development Meetings the third Thursday of every month, except July and December. The meetings are located at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12801 Northwest Freeway at 290 & Pinemont. Registration begins at 5:30 pm, dinner and the Business Meeting are at 6:15 pm and the Keynote Speaker is at 7:00 pm. Reservations are recommended and should be made by the Tuesday prior to the meeting. To make reservations or for information on the monthly topic, call (713) 952-7266 or visit www.apics-houston.org.
- **The Houston Area Woodcarvers** meet the third Saturday of each month (except October). from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bayland Park Meeting Room, 6400 Bissonet. For more information, visit the Web at www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Pagoda/6149.
- **The Houston Chapter of the Risk & Insurance Management Society, Inc.** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the professional standards of risk management. Established in 1950, RIMS has grown from a network of 5 to 95 chapters across the United States and Canada. Its membership is comprised of more than 4,300 corporations, institutions and governmental bodies and includes 90 percent of the Fortune 1300 lists. The Houston Chapter has more than 130 corporate members. The chapter functions as a clearinghouse for information on risk management and sound insurance procurement practices. Among the objectives: To aid in maintaining a reasonably competitive insurance market to the interest of all consumers of insurance, to foster a minimum of regulations with due regard to the financial stability of underwriters and the financial integrity of the insurance contract, to collect and disseminate statistics and other

information dealing with risk management, and to cooperate with producers, underwriters, regulatory bodies or agencies. For more information contact the Houston RIMS Chapter President, Sheryl Bittick, Corporate Risk Manager, Weingarten Realty Investors, 2600 Citadel Plaza, Houston, TX 77088. Or, call 713-866-6978, or by email at cbarnes@bcm.tmc.edu

- **The Houston Inventors Association** is a nonprofit organization of inventors helping inventors. The group meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet (one block west of Hillcroft). Drinks and sandwiches are available before the meetings. The association provides information, resources, and networking for inventors, entrepreneurs, and those interested in the invention process. General meetings with guest speakers are held on the fourth Wednesday and workshop meetings discussing specific topics are held on the second Wednesday. For more information contact Ken at (713) 686-7676 or Chuck at (281) 326-1795 or visit the website at www.inventors.org.
- **The Houston Model Yacht Club** promotes competitive radio-control sailing in the Houston area. We sail the Thunder Tiger Victoria, the East Coast 12 Meter, the Star 45, and scale models of tugs, workboats, and shrimp-boats. We are a recognized club of the American Model Yachting Association and welcome all interested parties. We have monthly regattas and more information on our activities can be found at <http://www.hal-pc.org/~evor> or you can contact Oliver Tse at 281-343-7838 or Ted Cooper at 281-342-1658.
- **The Houston Osteoporosis Society** meets the second Thursday of each month from 10:45 a.m. to noon at the Memorial Rehabilitation Hospital, 3033 N. Gessner, Conference Room 4. Meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are provided. For more information, call (281) 493-6883 or (713) 690-7303.
- **The Houston Osteoporosis Support Group** meets the second Thursday of each month at the Memorial Hermann Spring Shadows Pines, 3033 N. Gessner (near Clay Rd.), Conference Room #4. Meetings are from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. There is a different speaker program each month, and there is no charge to attend unless specified. For general information, call (281) 493-6883 or (713) 690-7303.
- **The Houston Planning Forum (formerly Strategic Leadership Forum)** meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at The Courtyard on St. James, 1885 St. James Place. Call (713) 908-0211 or email dottie@kerr-solutions.com for further information.
- **The Houston Section of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)** is an international professional society for all aerospace enthusiasts. The Houston Section is primarily composed of NASA engineers but is open to the public. For more information about the club, call Dan Selters at 281-333-7312.
- **The Houston Underwater Photographic Society** is a non-profit organization formed to encourage interest and

promote participation in underwater photography and videography. Each meeting includes a speaker presentation and slide contest. Attendance is free to the public. Meetings are generally held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month, always at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet. Since the dates occasionally vary from the first Monday, it is a good idea to check the current month's newsletter on the club Web site at www.hups.org for the latest information.

- **Houstonians for Secular Humanism** is a non-profit community organization committed to promoting science, reason, education, ethics, and other humanistic values in a non-religious context. It is associated with and operates in cooperation with The Council for Secular Humanism and is a member of its Alliance of Secular Humanist Societies. HSH is also a member of the Houston Humanist Alliance. Founded in 1998, HSH seeks to further its goals through educating the public, networking with similar groups, and helping others in the community. Activities include education of the public; social gatherings consisting of informal discussion groups, book clubs, meetings, and guest speakers; civic and volunteer work; media watch and response in cases involving science and pseudo-science the "paranormal"; networking with local humanist groups in other areas; publishing of the HSH newsletter. For more information, visit the Houstonians for Secular Humanism web site at <http://www.flash.net/~dts2000/index.html>
- **The Institute of Management Consultants - Houston Chapter** meets for breakfast on the fourth Fridays of each month at 7 a.m. at The University Club in the Galleria Post Oak Tower. Meetings are open to guests, but reservations are required. Call (281) 722-8255 or email jmc@kerr-solutions.com for further information.
- The meetings for **Justice For All** are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Aramco Building Auditorium, 9009 W. 610 Loop at N. Braeswood.
- **Katy Aquatics Masters Swimming** is a non-profit organization that provides for the community of West Houston and Katy. The team offers the opportunity for triathletes, cyclists and novice and expert swimmers to improve their swimming endurance, stroke mechanics and overall health and vitality. We practice Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6-8 p.m. and every other Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. Workouts are held at Katy High School and occasionally at Taylor High School. Participants must be 19 years or older with no upper-age limit. Participants must also be able to swim 50 yards freestyle without stopping. For more information contact Derek Piester at 281-829-1516 or email: piester@flash.net.
- **The Katy Prairie Promenaders** square dance every Friday night from 7-10 p.m. at Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy. The club caller is Fred Goynes. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Smith at 281-392-0713.
- **The Katy Toastmasters Club** meets the first three Thursdays each month from 7:30-9 p.m. at Cinco Ranch U of H Campus, 4242 S. Mason Road near Westheimer. Call 281-983-8245 for more information.

- **All the residents of the Larkwood subdivision** are invited to attend its bi-monthly meetings. They are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Bank One Building, Fondren and Bissonnet.
- **The Lone Star Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m. at the Seaman's Club, Port of Houston. For further information write to The Lone Star Chapter, AMMV, 8150 S. Loop East #208, Houston, TX 77017-1747. All former or present mariners, Navy Armed Guard, all service veterans, and Merchant Marine Academy and Maritime Academy graduates and students are welcome. We are especially looking for World War II mariners who have not received their deserved veteran status from the U.S. government.
- **The Manuscriptors Guild of Houston** meets the first and third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Canterbury United Methodist Church, 12143 Bellaire Blvd (between Kirkwood and Cook) in southwest Houston. The Manuscriptors Guild is a community of writers from the novice to the professional. It is a place of inspiration as well as motivation. Writers are able to participate in a common atmosphere with members who believe in the written word. Meetings include critique committees, professional speakers, workshops, networking, parties and social extravaganzas. Membership includes a subscription to The Writers Forum, a monthly publication of The Manuscriptors Guild. For additional information call (713)455-4675 or visit our web site [Manuscriptors Guild](#).
- **The Mended Hearts**, a support group for cardiac patients and their families, meets the first Monday of each month. Call Bob Turnbull at (409) 321-4115 or email him at turnbull@mcia.com for more information.
- **The Men's Cancer Support Group of St. Martin's Episcopal Church** meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Activity Center's Fireside Room, 717 Sage Road. For more information, call 713-621-3040.
- **The Humble Area Chapter (2308) of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees** meets at the Humble City Cafe on the third Monday of each month with the exception of December. The cafe is at 200 Main St. in Humble. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. with the meeting beginning immediately after lunch. Visitors are welcome. Call 281-359-9266 for additional information.
- The Houston Chapter of the **National Federation of the Blind** meets on the third Saturday of each month at the Houston Public Library's main branch, 500 McKinney. Meetings begin at 2 p.m. each month. For more information contact James Skelton at 713-957-4520.
- **The National Space Society, Clear Lake Area Chapter**. CLA-NSS holds meetings on the first Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Parker Williams Branch of the Harris County Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., in Houston. Members are citizens interested in space exploration. Everyone is invited to attend. Call Murray Clark at 281-367-2227 after 7 p.m.
- **The Native Plant Society of Texas** meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the Houston

Arboretum. Meetings are free and open to all. Members receive state and local newsletters, a list of suggested native plants for Houston, a list of books for suggested reading on natives, plus other benefits. Cost is \$20 for individuals and \$50 for patrons. For more information, call Glenn Olsen at (281) 8144.

- **Overeaters Anonymous of Houston** has established a web site offering a local meeting list, news of upcoming events, and general information about the organization. Visit it at www.oahouston.org.
- **The P. G. Wodehouse Society Literary Society** will meet Friday, March 30th, at Barnes & Noble on Westheimer near Gessner at 7:00p.m. The meetings are open to the public, please join us. The book for this meeting is THE UNCOLLECTED WODEHOUSE, available at Barnes & Noble. For questions about TWS please e-mail: Rudersdorf@pdq.net.
- **The Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan Houston** holds its monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at the Gold Ribbon Bake Shop and Restaurant on West Holcombe near the Medical Center. Included in every meeting is an hour of health-care-related presentations for which participants receive one CEU credit. Non-members pay \$5. For more information, please call Cleo Robinett at 281-859-5047.
- **The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club**, founded in 1953, is the granddaddy of Houston model railroad clubs. The club cooperates with the National Model Railroad Association and NMRA Lone Star Region Division 8. It is made up of about 130 men and women who model in scales ranging from Z to 1-1/2" live steam. Five of the clubs members have been awarded the prestigious Master Model Railroader award by the NMRA, and a number of layouts have been featured in national model railroad publications and video productions. Members of the club have also served as national officers in the NMRA. Meetings are open to the public and are held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, usually at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet. For more information contact Dale Farney at 281-931-7311.
- **Sharpstown Toastmasters Club**, one of the oldest Toastmasters Clubs in Houston, meets every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Sharpstown Mall, on the second level next to the food court and above the movie theater. Sharpstown Mall is at the Southwest Fwy. (U.S. 59 S.) and Bellaire Boulevard. The club is open to anyone interested in improving his communication and leadership skills. Contact Judy Ragland at (713) 266-9688 for more information.
- **Single Parent Family Club of West Houston**. Hang out and do fun things with other single parents and their kids! Join us for dinners, dances, picnics, trips, camping, playdates, babysitter network, and more. Meet new friends for you and your kids. Single parents of all ages, toddlers to teen-agers, welcome. Custodial / non-custodial members. For more information call 281-578-5953. Leave message and one of our friendly members will return your call.
- **The Society for Software Quality, West Houston Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at BMC Software, 2101 CityWest Blvd. Registration is at

11:30 a.m., and the meeting is from noon - 1 p.m. For more information contact Mike Giordanelli at 281-584-1865 or visit our website at <http://www.bullpenmarketing.com/ssq>.

- **The Space City Branch 159 of the Fleet Reserve Association and Unit 159 of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association**, are non-profit organizations that meet the second Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. at the FRA Branch home in Pasadena. All Active Duty, Reserve, and Retired members of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, or U.S. Coast Guard, and their families are eligible for membership. For further information write to Fleet Reserve Association, 4810 Pine Avenue, Pasadena, Texas 77503 or contact (281) 238-9441 or email mdchancebr159@aol.com.
- **Texans Against Gun Violence Education Fund** is a non-profit, volunteer, 501c-3 organization working to reduce gun violence in the Houston area. We especially need volunteers who can help with public relations activities. For more information visit our homepage: <http://www.insync.net/~tagvhou> We can also be reached at 13164 Memorial Drive #160, 77079, phone 713-827-8916, fx-713-827-1860, email tagvhou@insync.net.
- **The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** meets from 7-9 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at its office in the SHAPE Center, 3903 Almeda. The office is open every Tuesday from 2-9 p.m. Volunteers for needed telephone work, mailings, answering mail from death row prisoners and sending newsletters. Phone 713-523-8454 or during office hours at 713-521-0629. Email is tcadp-post@juno.com.
- **The Houston chapter of the Texas Economic & Demographic Association** meets regularly. For more information, contact TEDA/Houston Executive Secretary Edith Chambers at 713-844-3618 or at edithchambers@houston.org.
- **The Texas Gulf Coast Association for Healthcare Quality (TGCAHQ)**. Non-profit organization provides education and networking opportunities to enhance healthcare professionals' ability to measure and improve quality in healthcare services. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. For more information visit the Web site at www.tgcahq.com or write to Texas Gulf Coast Association for Healthcare Quality, P.O. Box 301121, Houston 77230-1121.
- **District 29 of the Texas Nurses' Association** has various programs. Call Jean Ivey at 409-772-8233 for further information.
- **The Texas Outlaws Flyball Club** is taking applications for its premiere racing season. Flyball is a dog relay race in which four dogs run 50 feet, jump 4 hurdles, catch a tennis ball in the air, and then run back to the start line, releasing the next dog. Tournaments are held almost monthly in various parts of the state. Contact Carol Friedman at (713) 667-3813 for additional information.
- **Toastmasters Cy-Fair Super Speakers: Toastmasters Club 5916**. The Toastmasters program will help you to develop your communication skills and open doors in your personal and professional life. Instead of laboring in an academic setting, or spending up to thousands on

costly seminars, you learn in a self-paced atmosphere of understanding and helpful fellowship. Meeting every Monday night from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, 11050 FM 1960 West, Suite 100, guests are always welcome at this Toastmasters Club. You don't need an invitation, all you need to do is show up! (But you might want to contact someone at the club first to make sure the meeting is going on as scheduled.) You may take part in the meeting if you wish, or just watch and listen. For more information, visit our [Web site](#), or contact David E. Stoll, vice president of education, at 281-281-955-8060 in the evenings, or email destoll@houston.rr.com.

- **The Vintage Bicycle Club of Texas**, meets every third Wednesday of the month at Hickory Hollow 101 Heights Blvd. For more information on the club, visit the Website at <http://users.argolink.net>, or email ybcoft@argolink.net, or call Juan DeLeon at 713-330-9073.
- **The West Houston Italian Club**, a social, charitable and Italian cultural organization formed in June 1990, meets the third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Glencairn Civic Center, 17030 Keith Harrow. For more information, call (281) 850-0651.
- **The West Houston Quilt Guild** meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Harris County Agricultural Extension Service Building on Bear Creek Drive. For more information, call (281) 859-4602.
- **USS Whetstone LSD-27** holds monthly meetings the first Saturday of every month. Please call Don "Huey" Hulen (SFP 3) for details at (281) 471-0224 or email him at donhulen@io.com All former crewmembers are welcome.

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Competitions and opportunities

- **The Klein Volunteer Fire Department** is actively seeking volunteers. The department provides fire protection for a portion of unincorporated northwest Harris County. It needs fire suppression and support personnel to assist in daily operations. For more information, see the department Web page at www.kleinfiredept.com or call between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 281-376-4449.
- **Leauge City Volunteer Fire Department** is in need of volunteers. The department is comprised of four stations, with more than 90 members, and a ladies auxiliary, serving approximately 60,000 citizens within the community. It needs fire suppression and support personnel to assist in daily operations. Training classes are available twice a year. For more information, see the department Web page at www.lcvfd.com or call 281-332-1311.
- **The Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace** at Texas Southern University has a constant need for volunteers. Those who are willing to work a few hours or those who can devote days to helping the center

assist area residents should contact Sherill Carrington, director of programs, at 713 313 7451 or email her at mickeyleland@hotmail.com for additional information.

- **Windows of the World (WOW) Reading Enrichment Program**, sponsored by the Peace Community Development Corp., a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit agency serving the Fifth Ward, is offering employment and volunteer opportunities for retired persons and high school and college students. The WOW program is sponsoring an after-school program to provide activities in arts and crafts, recreation, homework assistance, music, dance, Spanish and drama. Please contact Dr. Mildred Bright at 713-227-3223 if you are interested in working with elementary-aged students.
- **The Kelsey-Seybold Foundation for Medical Research and Education** is in need of volunteers to make reminder phone calls to women scheduled for their annual mammograms. One person is needed each morning for approximately 2 hours. Training will be provided. For more information contact Sonna Alton at (713) 442-1219.

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Events and activities

- The **Urban Business Initiative** will host a series of six business education seminars for entrepreneurs and small business owners beginning May 18 and continuing through June 29. The free classes will be held at Houston Community College, SE campus from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Saturday mornings. Topics include: Business Planning, Finance 101, Finding Funding for Your Business, Computers in Business, Marketing, and Business Etiquette and Soft Skills. Participants must attend all six classes. Class size is limited to 20, and participants must be located within the 610-Loop. For more information or to register for the seminars, call 713-222-8085.
- **Young People's Beginning Experience** will be holding a retreat June 28-30, 2002. YPBE is a Catholic sponsored, but non-denominational retreat designed to give support, understanding, and guidance to teenagers in a safe environment. The weekend of healing and growth is for teenagers between the ages of 12 and 19 who have experienced the death of a parent or whose parents have had a divorce or separation. For more information or to register go to: www.geocities.com/houstonteenbe or e-mail houstonteenbe@yahoo.com. You can also call Gloria Bustillo at 713-741-8776. Cost for the weekend is \$85.00 and includes all materials, two nights lodging and all meals, and the registration deadline is June 20, 2002.
- **The Houston Arboretum**, 4501 Woodway, holds various classes for adults and children. For more information, call (713) 743-1060 or (713) 681-8433.

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Reunions

- **Houston Technical Institute (HTI) Class of 1972** is seeking alumni for a 30-year reunion to be held in the fall. Contact Lydia at 713-673-3237 (e-mail rubia1210@hotmail.com) or Esmeralda at 281-987-1326 (e-mail esmeraldacervantes@yahoo.com).
- **Stephen F. Austin (HISD) Class of 1993** is seeking all alumni in the Houston and surrounding areas for a 10-year reunion to be held Summer 2003. Contact Alfred at (713)978-3804 or Susana (713)331-7767 or send e-mail to AustinReunion93@hotmail.com. You can also visit their Web site at www.sfa93.com to register or for information.
- **The Houston Chapter of the Texas Southern University Alumni Association** is looking for all alumni in the Houston and surrounding areas. For more information, call the Houston Chapter office at 713-641-0001 or send e-mail to TSUHoustonAlumni@aol.com.

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Self-help

- **Clutterless in Houston** is a free self-help group for people who have a challenge with clutter or hoarding in their lives. The groups meets every Tuesday, 8 - 9:30 p.m. at First Church of Religious Science 6600 Harwin Drive. For more information, please call 409-763-1908.

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Social services

- **Adopt 2000** is working to place more than 700 Houston-area children in need of permanent homes. Waiting children are six years and older, minorities, and sibling groups. Find out how you can make a difference by becoming an adoptive parent. For more information, call Adopt 200 at 1-800-613-3199, or visit www.adopt2000houston.org.
- **Associated Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston** is looking for African-American and bi-racial families who will consider adopting children. The charity says there is a special need for such adoptive families now. For more information, please call Mary McDonald at 713-526-4611, extension 3242.
- The mission of the **Arthritis Foundation** is to support research to find the cure for and prevention of arthritis and to improve the quality of life for those affected by the disease. Volunteers are needed for special events, the speaker's bureau and clerical work. Please contact Sonia Soto at 713-529-0800 or by email at SSoto@arthritis.org for additional information.

- **The Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston** offer medical services to adults diagnosed with seizure disorders and who have little or no income. In addition, the foundation provides support groups, information and referral, community education, children services programs and professional education. For more information call 409-839-2950 or 409-839-2951. Toll free: 1-888-548-9716. Website: www.efset.org.
- **The Interstitial Cystitis Association** needs volunteers in the Houston area to run support groups for patients suffering from interstitial cystitis, a painful bladder disease. If you are interested, please contact the state coordinator, Martha Billman at (972) 682-9658, or Co-Support Leaders Lou Stevens at (281) 488-0698, or Geneva Tillian at (281) 488-1234. You may also email Stevens at vlstevens@pdq.net
- **Brazos Valley Doberman Rescue Inc.** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and adoption of purebred Doberman Pinschers in and around Brazos Valley, Texas. Our mission is to try and find quality homes for the many abused, neglected, abandoned, or stray Dobermans as possible. For more information visit our web page at <http://PersonalWebs.myriad.net/snooks/>
- If you're pregnant and need help, contact the **Family Assistance Center** at 3806 Live Oak at Alabama. The number is 713-524-7801. In addition to Maternal Assistance, other programs include Mentoring For Positive Action (Males and Females) and Prevention Of Sexually Transmitted Disease Workshops. Community service hours are provided for those who need it. Volunteer counselors and non-client contact volunteers are also needed.
- Would you like to **help out a low-income apartment resident council**? Low-income apartment dwellers are organizing resident councils to deal with their landlords and with HUD and to take advantage of the health, education and self-advancement programs available to them. What's needed is someone to attend resident council meetings and help them get up to snuff on getting organized and involving the maximum number of residents. Our experienced core people will back you to the hilt. For more information, call Texas Action for Cooperative Housing, Sam Keeper, Phone (713) 524-0530; Fax (713) 529-9682. Or send email to samkeeper@aol.com
- **The Brazos County Rape Crisis Center** in Bryan, Texas, offers "Anonymous, Confidential On-line Support Counseling Service" at its new home page at <http://rapecrisis.txcyber.com> This service is totally secure and the same as banks and stock brokerage firms use for transfer, on-line banking, credit card banking, and such. Users enter a password and code names that only they know to send messages to the center, which responds back, not knowing where the message came from. The email address shows up as anonymous. The center feels this service will allow victims to come forward and receive help without the fear of people knowing who they are. Their identity remains anonymous. For more information, call Sherry Hostetter, assistant director, Brazos County Rape Crisis Center. Email: [http://www.chron.com/content/community/index.html \(15 of 19\) \[1/22/2003 8:27:34 AM\]](mailto:bcrcc@cy-</div><div data-bbox=)

[net.net](#) Phone: (409) 268-7273. Fax: (409) 846-9313.

- **The Methodist Home** continues to seek two-parent foster families of all ethnic groups to provide 24-hour foster care for young children. For more information, call Barbara Lee at (713) 682-8911.
- **Texas Polio Survivors Association (TPSA)** provides informative meetings and soon will offer more support in the way of durable medical equipment to polio survivors. A post-polio clinic is held every Monday and Tuesday at The Institute for Rehabilitation & Research in the Medical Center at 1333 Moursund. The main number there is 799-5000 if one needs to reach the clinic. The TPSA number is 690-0695; leave a message if the volunteer isn't there. Another organization provides -- free of charge -- durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, bath and shower chairs, crutches, and hospital beds (when available) to people who have no other resources. This volunteer organization is called **Health Equipment Recycling Coalition (HERC)** and is in the Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray. It accepts donated equipment; call 524-1217.
- **[The S.I.R.E. Therapeutic Riding Program](#)** in the Hockley/Tomball area northwest of Houston needs volunteers. They may work directly with the clients and other volunteers, serving as a sidewalker or a horse handler, or they may prefer to help "behind the scenes" with fundraising, publicity, booths, bulk mailings, special events or working in the office. Previous experience with horses is helpful but not mandatory except for those serving as horse handlers. Volunteers who work directly with the horses and riders must be at least 14 years old and must attend a two-hour training session. Please contact SIRE at (281) 356-7588 for more information.
- **The Unique Advantage Exchange Program (UAEP)**, a non-profit organization founded in 1988, in Michigan, is in need of Host Families for high school foreign exchange students who wish to come to America in January and August. Arriving in January for second semester and August for the new school year, are some very nice students from many different countries. These students are very eager to learn more about the "American Way of Life" firsthand by living with an American family during the school year. Students speak fluent English, are fully insured, come with their own spending money and have a strict code of conduct to follow. Host families are asked to provide a home-away-from-home. If your family is interested in hosting a student from another part of the world, please call: Unique Advantage Exchange Program at (248) 634-8415 We hope that you will join us in giving these students a warm welcome to our country and your community. (We are also looking for Area Representatives in your area.)

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Sporting events

- **The Houston Athletic Rugby Club** is a not-for-profit

organization that is recruiting men and women to play rugby. The club practices each Tuesday and Thursday evening, 6:30 p.m., at the Westland YMCA, 10402 Fondren Road The club fields two competitive premier men's sides, a competitive women's side and an Over-35 social side. For more information log on to www.houstonrugby.org or call the club hotline at 281-754-4540.

- **The Houston Women's Flag Football League** is currently recruiting new players and teams. The league typically starts in October and runs through February. PJ's Softball Park in Spring, TX is the home field. There will be a skills clinic for new and returning players in late summer or early fall. Please visit our web site at www.hwffl.org for events and more details. Or call 713-540-4843.
- **Katy Aquatics Masters Swimming** is a non-profit organization that provides for the community of West Houston and Katy. The team offers the opportunity for triathletes, cyclists and novice and expert swimmers to improve their swimming endurance, stroke mechanics and overall health and vitality. We practice Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6-8 p.m. and every other Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. Workouts are held at Katy High School and occasionally at Taylor High School. Participants must be 19 years or older with no upper-age limit. Participants must also be able to swim 50 yards freestyle without stopping. For more information contact Derek Piester at 281-829-1516 or email: piester@flash.net.

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Support groups

- **The Baytown Texas Chapter of The Compassionate Friends**, a self-help support group for bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings, meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the conference room of Transitions Outreach, Inc., 4721 Garth Road Suite E, Baytown. For more information or for directions please call Lois Walstead at 281-424-5760 or Carol Mendelovitz at 281-422-3517.
- **The Sugar Land-Southwest Houston Chapter of The Compassionate Friends** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at First Presbyterian Church of Sugar Land, 502 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land 77478. Everyone is welcome; there are no fees or dues. For more information, phone 281 980-4350 or visit our Web site at www.tcfsugarland.org.
- **Cypress Creek Couples Corner** meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Cypress Creek Community Center at 7:00 p.m. to discuss issues facing married couples. Leader couples are trained by the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME) -- see the website at "bettermarriages.org" for event schedule and additional information. Contact: Kay and Tom Gallatin 281-370-4181

- **Dialogue on Cancer** is an ongoing support group of the American Cancer Society designed to help patients, their families and friends better understand and learn to live with cancer. **Bosom Buddies** was initiated in 1995 as a support group for breast cancer survivors in Baytown and nearby communities. In 1996 the two groups combined and are endorsed by the Baytown Unit of The American Cancer Society. Sessions are informal and often include guest speakers and experts in fields relating to cancer prevention, causes, trends, coping skills, prosthetics, diet, exercise and more. Discussions are free and open to the public. Eight and ten people usually attend each meeting at the conference room of Transitions Outreach, Inc., 4721 Garth Suite E. For more information, contact Sue Weir at 573-1945 and Joy Boswell at 424-1419. For support, contact Susan Massman at 839-1338 or 425-6563 and Carol Mendelovitz at 424-5995 or 422-3517.
- **The For Men Only Cancer Support Group**, sponsored by the Anderson Network of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, meets the first Monday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road. For more information contact: Bill Cutshall at 713-644-9500 or the Anderson Network 713-792-2553.
- **gayDAR and For Mature Audiences Only** are two wellness communities at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. gayDAR is a wellness community of 22-35 year-old gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered (GLBT) persons interested in making healthy connections and personal growth. gayDAR meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. in room 218. For Mature Audiences Only is an inclusive multi-issue health & wellness community for persons over 35 to celebrate the successes and share the challenges of midlife changes. FMAO meets on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m., also in room 218. Come share your wellness secrets and learn some new ideas. For more information about both groups, call 713-526-1017.
- **Houston Osteoporosis Support Group** meeting on Thursday, Aug. 9, *Osteoporosis Research and Treatment Update* by Clark McKeever, M.D., Orthopedist, Diagnostic Bone Density Institute and Associate Medical Director for inTouch Research. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at Memorial Hermann Spring Shadows Pines, 3033 N. Gessner (near Clay Road), conference room No. 4. Meetings are from 10:30 a.m. to noon. There is no charge to attend, unless specified for a meal. For more information, call 281-493-6883 or 713-690-7303.
- **The Houston Area Parkinson Society**, is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of those impacted by Parkinson's disease. For more than 25 years, the organization has provided Tai Chi, support, physical, occupational, speech, and water therapies throughout the Houston Metropolitan Area. For more information, contact Anne Martin (713) 626-7114.
- **Transitions Outreach, Inc.**, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to helping individuals who are learning to live with a loss in their lives, is offering free support groups for anyone in the community who has experienced a loss of a family member or friend. Encouraging the sharing of

bereavement experiences in a safe and friendly environment has proven beneficial in the healing process. Understanding the grief process and the havoc it plays in daily life is a key to resolution. Learning new ways to cope with sorrow and how to regain control of life are topics of discussion. The groups will be facilitated by Carol Mendelovitz, LMSW, NCBF. If you or someone you know could benefit from a support group, please call 281-422-3517.

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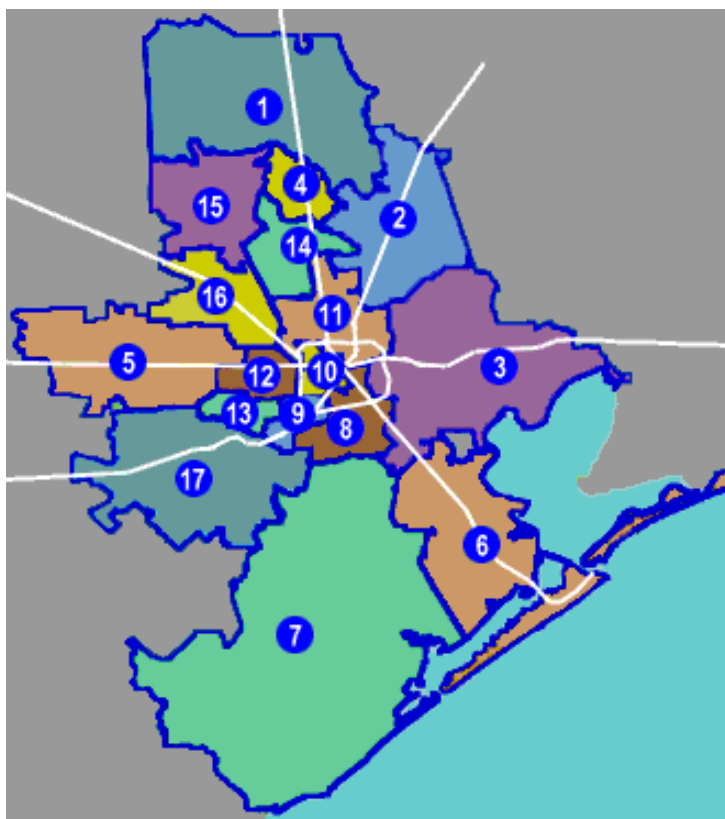
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BEST OF THIS WEEK

Contaminated Pearland site eyed by state

State environmental officials have set their sights on cleaning up a contaminated industrial site in Pearland that leaked volatile chemicals into the soil and a nearby creek.

Library books may get shelved in Montgomery County

Two more books are being targeted for removal from Montgomery County libraries because of a complaint they glorify homosexuality, promote promiscuity and bash Christianity.

Cause of Almeda hole still mystery

Though progress is being made pumping water from the Almeda Road sinkhole, it will be at least another two weeks before the cause of the collapse is found, a city public works department spokesman said.

Teenager chases goal of professional racing circuit

The irony of being invited to race Formula One cars at age 14 while not being old enough to have a driver's license is not lost on Bradford Coleman.

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Ex-pro basketball players help local kids fight drugs

Ex-professional basketball player Gus Gerard teaches classes to children and young adults on drug and alcohol awareness at the Grayson Community Center in North Shore. Precinct 3 Justice of the Peace Mike Parrott has called on the services of two ex-professional basketball players to educate teens about drugs.

Civil rights activist Gregory headlines MLK Day events in Brazoria County

Events marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Brazoria County will include a visit by a well-known civil rights activist.



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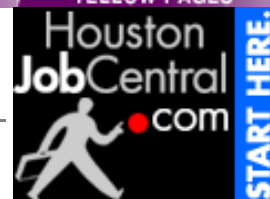
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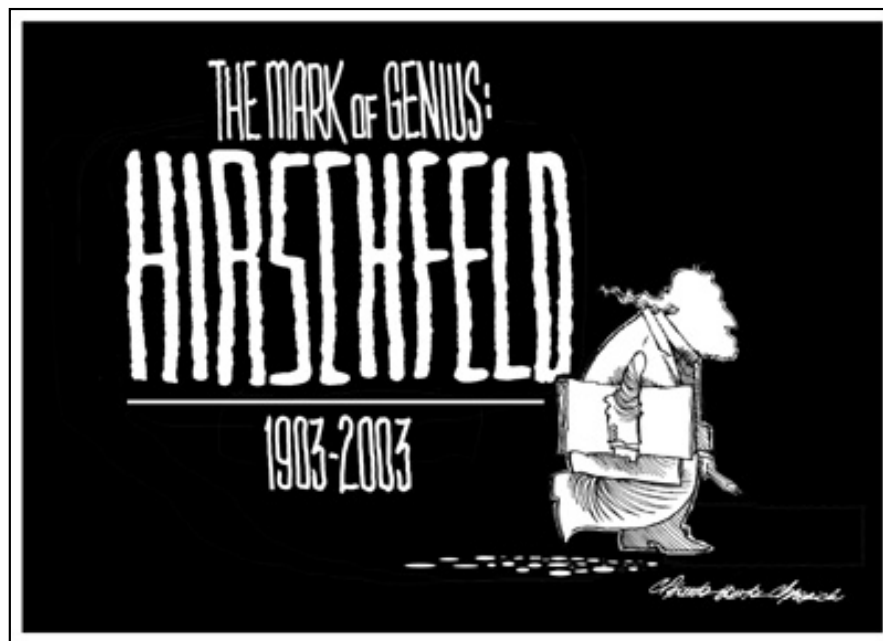
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Residentes de la ciudad de México permanecen afuera de sus casas tras registrarse un sismo con magnitud de 7,6, la noche del martes 21 de enero del 2003.

Poderoso sismo en México causa 21 muertos

Un poderoso terremoto estremeció el oeste y el centro de México, dejando un saldo de al menos 21 muertos, derribando docenas de viviendas y causando numerosos cortes de electricidad. La cifra de muertos continuaba subiendo el miércoles.

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"Baby Blues," "Baldo," "Beto el Recluta," "Bucles" y más en español.

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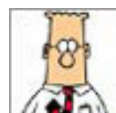
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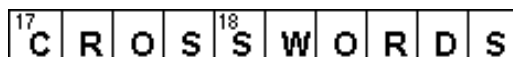
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- **New!** Or play a new online [Sports Crossword](#) updated every Sunday on HoustonChronicle.com. (You still need Java to play online.)



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- Try out our new [Word Search](#) puzzle in either of two difficulty levels - regular and master strength - with a timer. And a 14-day archive of previous puzzles.



In [Gopher Patrol](#), Divot and his gang of marauding gophers have been chewing up The Sausage Links. Help Lumpy the Groundskeeper get the course ready for the Big Buck\$ Tournament by flushing the underground rodents out of the front nine with water. You'll need Shockwave to play.

- Go up against "THE GOOSE," "JUKES" and "BIG DADDY" in the [Free Throw Shootout](#).

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Health

Banding against obesity

**E. Joseph Deering / Chronicle**

Ken Grant, 30, left, and his uncle, Arthur Brandon, 57, before and after laparoscopic adjustable gastric banding: Brandon, who weighed 355 pounds, now weighs 225; Grant, who weighed 369 pounds, now weighs 202. [Full story.](#)

- [Dining-in portions get 'super' as well](#)
 - [Red Cross is facing emergency of its own](#)
- [Jan. 21, 2003: Want to lose weight? Get more sleep](#)
 - [Researchers study falls by the elderly, how to reduce injury](#)
 - [Feds to test effect of 12 drugs used on children](#)
 - [Parents filter certain genes to avoid diseases](#)
- [Jan. 18, 2003: Gene research critical in cystic fibrosis fight](#)
 - [Fewer dying of heart attacks, but gains prompt questions](#)
 - [FTC urges media to reject false diet ads](#)
 - [Analysis scales help measure fat content in privacy of home](#)
- [Jan. 17, 2003: U.S. urged to reveal risks of smallpox vaccine](#)
 - [Patients plead with state not to cut off](#)

RESOURCES**Calculate your Body Mass Index:**

A BMI of 30 or above is considered obese. (Requires [Flash Player 6](#) plug-in)

Research hospitals:

Look up hospitals' track records on treating 25 medical conditions or surgeries, including stroke, bypasses and baby delivery, at the Texas Health Care Information Council's Web site.



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 - Worms may hold the key to obesity
 - Tools lost in 1,500 people yearly
 - Surgery produces weight loss when all else fails
 - Of note
 - Artificial disc may help ease back pain
 - Health system given 20 years to get ready for baby boomer wave
 - FDA suspends gene therapy test after 2nd child develops cancer
- **Jan. 15, 2003:** Mushrooms enlisted in the war on cancer
 - 3,500 to get meningitis vaccinations
 - Report: Medicare services improve, but some states lag
- **Jan. 14, 2003:** Surge continues in psychiatric drugs for kids
 - Most states plan cuts in Medicaid coverage
 - Virus at school still spreading student-to-student
- **Jan. 11, 2003:** Family debates value of genetic testing
 - Crash-scene research focuses on detection of hidden injuries
 - Centers
- **Jan. 9, 2003:** Tiny device helps ward off muscle atrophy
 - Simple gadgets give positive weight loss results
 - Drug that attacks cells in tumors is showing promise in study
 - Drink to a healthier heart?
 - Of note

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Texas Children's Hospital

*Changing the face of healthcare,
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CancerWiseTM is produced by The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. M.D. Anderson is one of the nation's original three Comprehensive Cancer Centers designated by the National Cancer Act of 1971 and is one of only 35 such centers today. For the past nine years, the institution has been ranked among the top two cancer centers in the nation in U.S. News & World Report's annual "Best Hospitals" survey.

The Houston Chronicle is pleased to be working with M.D. Anderson to provide our Internet community with the best possible cancer information available anywhere.

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Providing World-Class Care with a Heart



Health tips from St. Luke's

For many of his 88 years, Harry S Truman left reporters gasping for breath with sharp-tongued commentary during his brisk morning walk. John Glenn credits his return to orbit at age 77 to daily exercise, including a two-mile power walk. A recent study suggests that an invigorating walk gives older people's brains a good workout, boosting memory and sharpening judgment. To make an appointment with a doctor, contact [St. Luke's Physician Referral](#).

* * *

St. Luke's Episcopal Health System is a comprehensive health system that meets the primary and tertiary healthcare needs of the Houston community. Established by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the System includes St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, the St. Luke's Episcopal Health Network, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities and most recently, the Kelsey-Seybold Management, LLP. St. Luke's is home to the world-renowned [Texas Heart Institute](#), founded in 1962. The Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's is consistently ranked in the [top 10 cardiovascular centers](#) in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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Baylor International Pediatric AIDS

Initiative

The mission of the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative is to promote health for all people through education, research and public service. The mission currently encompasses programs in Houston, Romania, Mexico and southern Africa. Learn more at the [BIPAI site](#).

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HoustonLifestyle & Features**Check your pockets****Andrew Innerarity / Chronicle**

Dennis E. Beasley looks over part of his collection before a meeting of the Greater Houston Coin Club. The club has put old, rare Lincoln pennies into circulation to draw attention to the hobby as well as to this weekend's Money Show of the Southwest.

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- **Heloise:** Clear out the clouds for perfect iced tea
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- **Writer** Antwone Fisher reaches out to troubled kids
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- **Study** links babies with TV `messages'
- **'Osbornes'** ratings take a downward spiral
- **On two**

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

DININGGuide

Browse all [Dining and Entertainment](#) yellow page listings

OR

Restaurants we recommend (listings by alphabetical order)
• [We Recommend: Star ratings](#)

Ever-expanding tortillas morph into monsters

Steve Campbell / Chronicle

A burrito is made to order for a customer at Chipotle Mexican Grill in downtown Houston.
Full story.

- **Cover Story:** [Ever-expanding tortillas morph into monsters](#)
- **Counterpoint:** [Bulky burritos can hide anything, even the kitchen sink](#)
- [Soy steaming with attitude](#)
- **Wine of the week:** [2001 Joh. Jos. Christoffel Erben Urziger Wurzgarten Riesling Spätlese](#)
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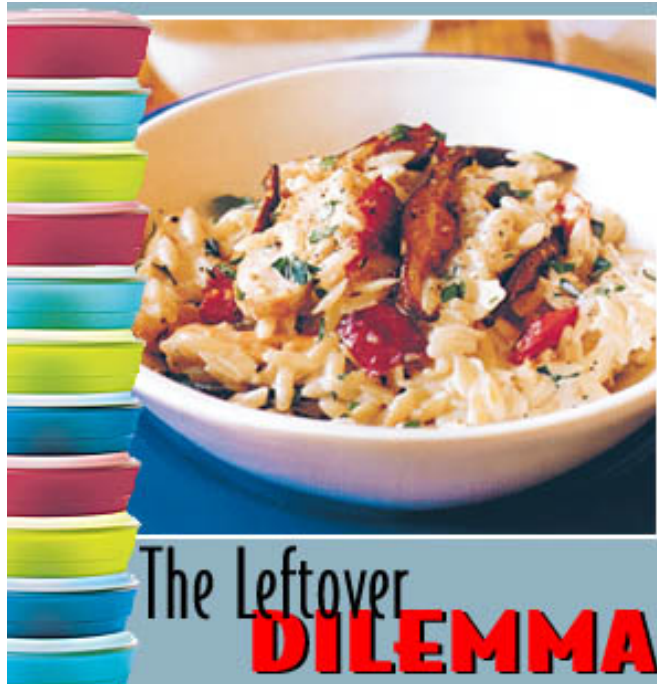
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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

Food Cooking & Comment



Buster Dean photos / Chronicle

Orzo With Chicken, Red Pepper and Shiitakes from *Food & Wine Magazine's Quick From Scratch One-Dish Meals Cookbook* offers the creamy taste of risotto without all the stirring. We've got even more [ideas for your leftover chicken](#).

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

Gardens



Illustration by Gladys Ramirez /
 Chronicle

Find out which **fruits, berries and nuts** do well in the Houston area and learn handy tips every gardener needs to know to help them grow.

- [Simplicity, seasonal color grow in popularity](#)
- [Lazy Gardener: Use pruning techniques tailored to the needs of garden, climate](#)
- [Healthy plants require rich soil](#)
- [Use ornamental trees to season landscapes](#)
- [Save plants from even more damage](#)

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

Horoscope

Today's horoscope

By JOYCE JILLSON
 Creators Syndicate

Mercury has made communication a bit more interesting in a roundabout way. The fun in speculation and gossip is about to go away, though, and in its place comes clarity, correct information and a whopping dose of the stark, naked truth. Not a bad trade, and just in the nick of time, as we were about to start believing the stories we made up.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Get back in charge of your life. Break out with a new attitude toward work. A different approach to money helps your bottom line. Blast romance out of a rut; if you want to hear wedding bells, say so!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you're ready to be a leader, prove it by initiating the next move. You'll be supported by enough people to make a difference. Learning something new will draw interesting folks into your sphere; some are generous with cash.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A leap of faith is required to get an old situation on its feet again or to take on the adventure of something totally new. Moving along life's road with friends and partners is worth the compromise it takes.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A choice you make this morning determines the course of future finances. A money pro gives you sound advice -- shelf your ego, and heed professional tips. People will rise up to a new standard when given the chance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Steering home activities to please demanding people won't work; they'll always want more. It's time to do things for the

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right reason -- because you really want to! Nourish your inner whimsy; let yourself play and have fun.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 22). You shine; fantastic ideas come in the next 15 days. Speculative business enterprises pay off in March. New love is discovered in April. Libras and Capricorn make ideal partners. Creative people change tracks during the summer when other lifestyle transitions cast a different perspective on art. Travel in September brings financial contacts. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 39, 22, 5 and 3.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your discipline will set an excellent example for children or co-workers. It's about time you reward yourself. Spoken money commitments are unreliable; get agreements on paper and legally approved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). An understated approach works. Clients, bosses and underlings are all influenced by your smooth style and charm. What they are really responding to is your ability to make others feel terrific about themselves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). It's nearly time to reveal the ace you've got up your sleeve. Even you can become exhausted by too much work, so take time out! Love will be easier if you emphasize friendship and what you have in common.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The turn your relationship takes today is a lucky one. You'll be surprised at what someone really thinks. Seize the chance to use your originality and imagination, which you often underestimate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You have exceptionally good money-making prospects once you improve the efficiency of communication systems. Be sure and ask if your words were fully understood. Your sweetheart could use a thoughtful gesture.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Tenacity is the key to romance now. Keep after a potential sweetie -- even if you think you'd rather not make the call. Writing and selling are featured, and you're extremely adept at both.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You are as lucky as



you are positive. Reaching for one of life's landmarks (like buying a house) causes you to re-evaluate your priorities. Let a partner call the shots for a few days while you take time to sort out your feelings.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm a Sagittarian woman, born Nov. 30, 1961, who is in love with a Cancer man born July 7, 1958. We've been involved for a year and a half. Is there any hope for the relationship to last? I don't have time to mess around."

There is much you admire about one another, and you also feel you have a lot in common with this man, though there's not much evidence of this. It's more of a meeting of the spirit and a sense of home you find in one another. That said, this relationship is not without complications. You admire his outgoing charm (moon in Gemini, Mercury in Leo), and he's got a drive to make money, which he does proficiently. Ultimately, you know he'll be much luckier with you by his side in a marriage capacity. But, sometimes, you feel you just don't speak the same language. Communicating well, consistently, calmly and tenderly is your ticket to making this relationship last. You should also know that though he may not show it, he can be intensely jealous. Your job is to convince him that you're true, that you hold his interest dear to your heart and that you are always thinking about him. Cancers are complex creatures, and they need lots of security.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Charming, innovative and popular are typical Aquarian characteristics, and George Stephanopoulos fits that profile. His role in politics has been such a crowd pleaser, he's now the host of his own television show. Aquarian politicians have a talent for getting people involved in government who normally aren't interested. This is because they present complicated information in a way people can understand.

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**Speed
 Ranges**

50 + mph

40-49 mph

30-39 mph

20-29 mph

0-19 mph

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Cleared incident
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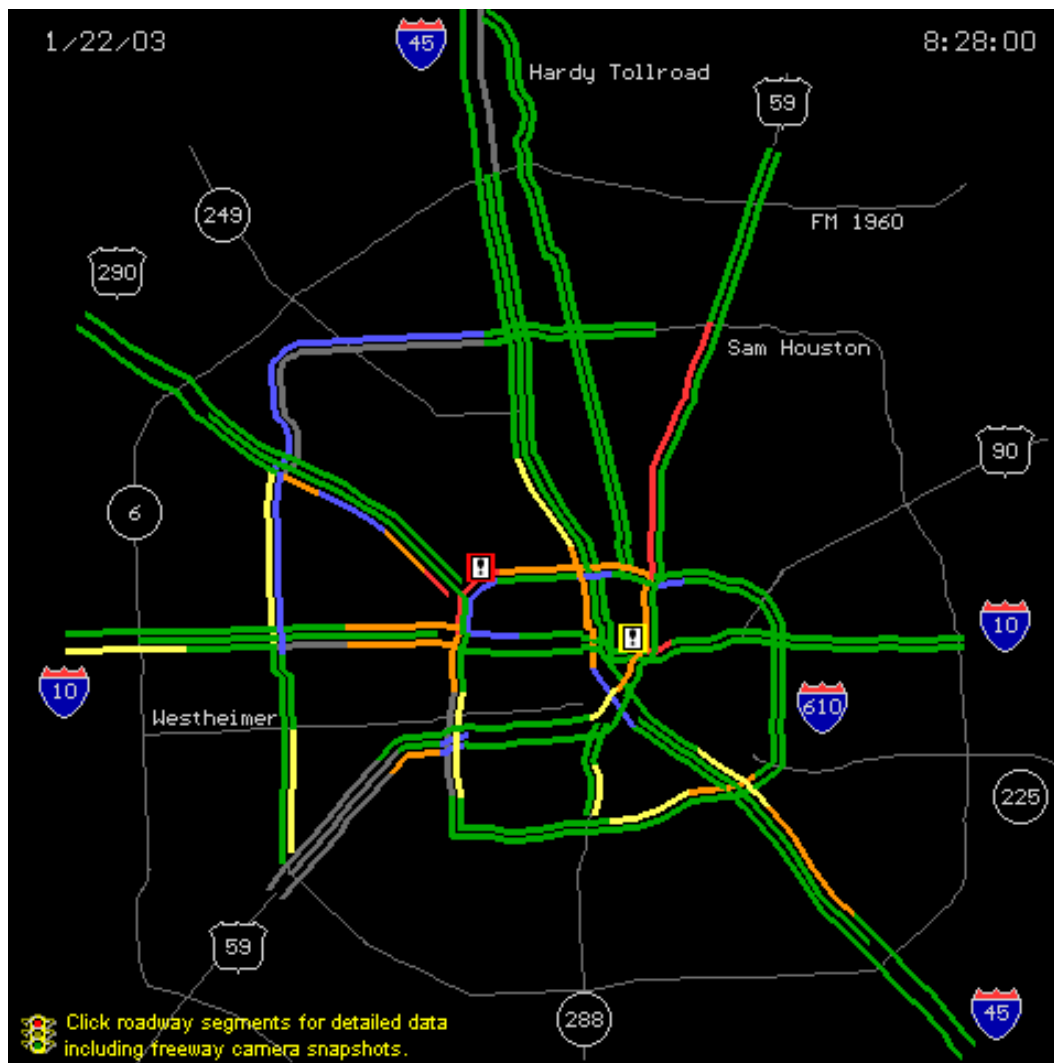
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Lottery

Winning numbers

TEXAS

Lotto (Jan. 18) 1-15-19-39-45-51

Estimated jackpot \$40 million

Winning tickets None

Next jackpot (Jan. 22) \$53 million

Pick 3 Day (Jan. 21) 7-0-7**Pick 3 Night** (Jan. 21) 3-3-2**Cash 5** (Jan. 21) 1-6-27-31-32**Texas Two Step** (Jan. 21) 4-15-20-33

Bonus ball 11

LOUISIANA

Lotto (Jan. 18) 5-18-19-21-25-36**Pick 3** (Jan. 21) 8-7-8**Cash Quest** (Jan. 18) 5-21-22-34**Powerball** (Jan. 18) 4-17-34-48-52

In La. and 22 other states Powerball 10

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following LOTTO drawings on Saturdays and Wednesdays. CASH 5 and twice-daily PICK 3 drawings are conducted Monday through Saturday. TEXAS TWO STEP drawings are held on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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Lotto Texas

Cash 5

Pick 3

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Harris County is a pipeline to Texas' death row. Learn why, and decide for yourself whether justice is being served.

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Millions of Mexicans are hoping the election of Vicente Fox as president will end 71 years of authoritarian and often venal one-party rule. But can prosperity, democracy and trust really replace poverty, injustice and doubt?



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Wednesday, January 22, 2003 Updated 1:08 AM

MetropolitanLocal&State**BY E-MAIL:** You can receive this section [by e-mail](#).Perry promises 'a better tomorrow'**Christobal Perez / Chronicle**

Gov. Rick Perry and his wife Anita are saluted by the Texas A&M Ross Volunteers, the governor's honor guard, at the inaugural ball in Austin Tuesday night.

- [In-laws walk with Clara Harris to court](#)

A Friendswood dentist charged with murder walked into the courthouse Tuesday hand-in-hand with the mother of her orthodontist husband whom she allegedly ran over with her car after finding him with another woman.

- [Governor Perry promises 'a better tomorrow'](#)

Vowing to limit state government while broadening opportunities for Texans, Gov. Rick Perry launched his own full term in the state's top office Tuesday.

- [Governor thanks educator for teaching 'life's great lessons'](#)

Olga Taylor didn't expect an invitation, much less a basketful of fruit, a yellow silk rose and a televised kiss on the cheek from a famous man.

- [Lt. Gov. Dewhurst vows to keep critical services](#)

- [State enters new era with swearing-in of Republican officials](#)

- [Inaugural notes](#)

- [Some potential jurors confused by Bradford case](#)

After some prospective jurors asked why such a "trivial" matter has been brought to trial or what the law required, a panel was chosen Tuesday to decide whether Houston Police Chief C.O. Bradford intentionally lied under oath

HOUSTON CHRONICLE
78th TEXAS
LEGISLATURE
COLUMNISTS[Leon Hale](#)[Thom Marshall](#)[John Williams](#): Politics**RESOURCES****West Nile:**

Keep up with latest news on the West Nile virus and track Houston-area cases of the virus.

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Links to hundreds of school districts in the Houston area.

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Find a circle of support in the **Harris County Child Support Directory.**

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about cursing a subordinate.

- [Local activists pay price for convictions](#)
Local peace activists Ken Crowley and Marilyn White smile easily as they talk about the high price of their moral convictions.
- [Grandmother thwarts dog attack, saves boy, 2](#)
A 2-year-old boy attacked by a stray dog in front of a northeast Houston home might have been mauled to death Tuesday had his grandmother not fended off the animal, police say.
- [They can clone a cat, but they can't copy one yet](#)
- [Former attorney general's brother accused of extortion](#)
- [Teen summit helps foster acceptance](#)
- [Morales' kin admits plan to extort Sanchez](#)
- [Mentally ill Texas man will seek clemency](#)
- [County plans to sue dry cleaners over pollution](#)
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- [News briefs](#)

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[Clear Lake](#)**[drownings:](#)**

Full Chronicle coverage of Andrea Yates trial, transcript of her confession, photo gallery of Yates children and more.

[Enron's collapse:](#)

Bankruptcy and investigation documents, ex-employees' stories, video and audio, archived Chronicle coverage of Enron's rise and fall.

[Legacy of love and pain:](#)

On April 9, a brutal attack on Angela Hudson forced three generations of women to face their family's legacy of domestic violence. Here is their story, in pictures and words.

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

Education

Teen summit helps foster acceptance

John Everett / Chronicle

Teenagers discuss their concerns and views on racism and bias at the M.O. Campbell Education Center. About 1,700 teens from the Houston area attended the annual Teen Summit on Race Relations, which allowed students to discuss issues often regarded as taboo. [Full story.](#)

• Teen summit helps foster acceptance

Seventeen-year-old Laverne Mendoza wants to set the record straight. She's an American of Asian heritage, not an FOB (that's short for "fresh off the boat"). And, contrary to what people ask her, her house doesn't smell like fish. Such sentiments were common recently at The Teen Summit on Race Relations, an annual gathering for students to embrace ethnic and cultural differences.

• Smith to retire as UH chancellor, president

University of Houston chancellor and president Arthur K. Smith will step down in September after more than six years at both posts, he announced today.

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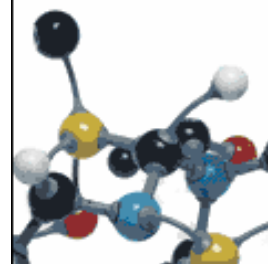
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Wednesday, January 22, 2003 Updated 7:51 AM

National News

Political shifts may change abortion laws



Associated Press

Democratic presidential hopefuls Sen. John Kerry, Vermont governor Howard Dean, Rep. Richard Gephardt, Sen. Joseph Lieberman and Sen. John Edwards take part in a National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League reception, marking the 30th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision. Both sides of the issue believe the nation's political climate is ripe for laws limiting abortion.

- [Bush impatient with growing U.N. opposition](#)
President Bush expressed impatience with growing opposition at the United Nations to confronting Iraq, as Secretary of State Colin Powell declared Tuesday that more weapons inspections "will not work."
 - [Bush's domestic, foreign policies divisive, dangerous, Kennedy says](#)
- [Political winds may stir change in abortion laws](#)
On today's 30th anniversary of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, the bitter opponents on the issue agree about one thing. They share a belief that the nation's political climate is ripe for laws limiting abortion because Republicans control the White House, Congress and many state legislatures, including the one in Texas.
- [Bush budget offers no Medicaid relief](#)
The nation's top penny pincher said Tuesday that President Bush's budget, to be released in the next few weeks, will not give states added help to pay for Medicaid health insurance for the poor.
- [Dining-in portions get 'super' as well](#)
Americans aren't just supersizing their portions in fast-food restaurants, they're doing it in their own kitchens.
- [Hispanics achieve a Census pinnacle](#)



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[Leon Hale](#)[Thom Marshall](#)[John Williams: Politics](#)

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SPECIALS

The Fated Forest: A steady onslaught of clearing in North America's largest rain forest likely will lead to its demise.

Rebel Held: A close-up look at Colombia's FARC, Latin America's oldest, most powerful guerrilla army.

The Great Flood of 2001:

See our special section for photos, stories and information on how to get help or donate to recovery efforts.

Our First 100

Years:

Follow our city's changes over the past 100 years in stories taken verbatim from the pages of the Houston Chronicle.

Out of Bounds: We trust our kids to them every day. But a Chronicle investigation reveals the relationship between secondary school coaches and students


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Census Demographics experts said it was just a matter of time: The U.S. Census bureau reports Hispanics have surpassed blacks as the nation's largest minority group.

- [2 killed, 3 injured in West Virginia mine explosion](#)
- [Bush skirts issue on consideration of race in schools](#)
- [Rumsfeld sorry for remarks on draftees](#)
- [Civilian support frees up military for 'war fighting'](#)
- [Treasury nominee charged with DUI in '82, report says](#)
- [Sharon chats with astronauts](#)
 - [NASA seeking a few good teachers](#)
- [Sharpton joins race for presidency](#)
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- [Labs falsifying environmental tests](#)
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is rife with abuse.

[A Deadly](#)**[Distinction:](#)**

When it comes to executions, Texas leads the nation, and Harris County is a pipeline to Texas' death row. Learn why, and decide for yourself whether justice is being served.

[Democracy dawns](#)

[for Mexico:](#) Millions of Mexicans are hoping the election of Vicente Fox as president will end 71 years of authoritarian and often venal one-party rule. But can prosperity, democracy and trust really replace poverty, injustice and doubt?

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

Elections & Politics

Top stories

- [Governor Perry promises 'a better tomorrow'](#)
Vowing to limit state government while broadening opportunities for Texans, Gov. Rick Perry launched his own full term in the state's top office Tuesday.
 - [Lt. Gov. Dewhurst vows to keep critical services](#)
 - [State enters new era with swearing-in of Republican officials](#)
 - [Governor thanks educator for teaching 'life's great lessons'](#)
 - [Inaugural notes](#)
- [Political winds may stir change in abortion laws](#)
On today's 30th anniversary of the landmark *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion, the bitter opponents on the issue agree about one thing. They share a belief that the nation's political climate is ripe for laws limiting abortion because Republicans control the White House, Congress and many state legislatures, including the one in Texas.
- [Morales' kin admits plan to extort Sanchez](#)
The brother of former Attorney General Dan Morales has agreed to plead guilty to attempted extortion against former Democratic gubernatorial nominee Tony Sanchez, his lawyer said Tuesday.
- [Treasury nominee charged with DUI in '82, report says](#)
- [Sharpton joins race for presidency](#)
- [Bush's domestic, foreign policies divisive, dangerous, Kennedy says](#)

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BACKGROUND

April 9 runoff results

Harris County:

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March 14 primary results

Statewide:

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Nov. 5 election results

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

SpaceChronicle

continuing coverage of space news from HoustonChronicle.com

Things heat up on shuttle as work goes on



Associated Press

With an apple floating in the foreground, the crew aboard Columbia's Spacehab from left to right, David Brown, Ilan Ramon, Rick Husband, Kalpana Chawla, William McCool, Michael Anderson, and Laurel Clark wave to television cameras.

• [Gallery of the Columbia shuttle crew](#)

Things heat up aboard shuttle as work goes on

Temperatures climbed aboard the space shuttle Columbia and the large Spacehab payload module Monday after a pair of humidity control devices failed.

NASA plans to send two rovers to Mars

NASA is readying identical twin rovers for a mission to Mars, where the six-wheeled buggies will prospect for geologic evidence that the Red Planet was once wet enough to support life.

Columbia 's cameras capture amazing images

Israeli scientists in charge of space shuttle Columbia's desert dust-monitoring experiment said today they have yet to find any dust storms but are zooming in on thunderstorms with electrifying results.

Sharon chats with astronauts

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, marking his country's first foray into space, called the crew of the shuttle Columbia on Tuesday to offer congratulations and an invitation to visit Jerusalem.

NASA seeking a few good teachers

NASA launched a nationwide campaign Tuesday to recruit flight-worthy classroom teachers for its astronaut corps as part of an educational initiative to make math and science as inspiring to youngsters as pop music and sports.

Email Space Chronicle

MULTIMEDIA

Live streams:

- [NASA TV video](#)
- [Alpha audio](#)

[Check here](#) for coverage of Columbia mission STS-107.

STS-107 Mission Video:

- [Video of launch](#)

(Video requires [QuickTime](#), [Real Player](#) or [Windows Media](#).)

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NASA looking to hire more teachers as astronauts

With the widows of three of the Challenger astronauts looking on, NASA launched a program today to recruit more teachers as astronauts and get more youngsters interested in science and math.

Erratic star that erupted in 2000 ready to blow

An erratic monster star that lobbed 10,000 times the Earth's mass into space when it erupted two years ago is ready to blow again at any time, astronomers said.

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Wed. Jan. 22, 2003

SpaceChronicle

continuing coverage of space news from HoustonChronicle.com

SHUTTLE MISSIONS

Columbia blasts off



Associated Press

The Space Shuttle Columbia lifts off on Jan. 16.

New mission:

STS-107: Research mission, Freestar

Jan. 16 - Space shuttle Columbia

Previous missions:

STS-113: Nov. 23 - Dec. 8, 2002 - Space
ISS truss installation, Shuttle Endeavour installed a new
new crew truss system for the space station
 and delivered a new crew.

STS-112: Oct. 7 - 18, 2002 - Space Shuttle
ISS truss installation, Atlantis delivered a new truss
repairs system for the space station's solar
 power and cooling system.

Email Space Chronicle

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Live streams:

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- [Alpha audio](#)

[Check here](#) for
 coverage of Columbia
 mission STS-107.

STS-107 Mission Video:

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[STS-111:](#) **June 5 - 20, 2002** - Space Shuttle
[New crew, space station repairs](#) Endeavour delivered a new crew and completed crucial repairs to the robot arm assembly of the space station.

[STS-110:](#) **Apr. 8 - 19, 2002** - Space Shuttle
[ISS truss, transporter installation](#) Atlantis made repairs and delivered new parts to the International Space Station.

[STS-109:](#) **Mar. 2 - Mar. 13, 2002** - Space Shuttle
[Hubble Space Telescope Servicing](#) Shuttle Columbia completed its mission to repair and replace parts of the Hubble Space Telescope.

[STS-108:](#) **Dec. 5-17, 2001** - Space Shuttle
[Crew exchange & resupply](#) Endeavour delivered a new crew and supplies to the international space station.

[STS-105:](#) **Aug. 10-22, 2001** - Space Shuttle
[Crew exchange & resupply](#) Discovery delivered three new tenants and several tons of supplies to the international space station.

[STS-104:](#) **July 12-July 24, 2001** - Space Shuttle
[Airlock delivery](#) Shuttle Atlantis carried a 9-ton airlock module to the international space station.

[STS-100:](#) **Apr. 19-May 1, 2001** - Space Shuttle
[Robot arm](#) Shuttle Endeavour delivered a second-generation robotic arm to the international space station.

[STS-102:](#) **Mar. 9-21, 2001** - Orbiter
[Crew swap](#) Discovery shuttled a new fresh crew to the international space station and returned the first station crew to Earth.

[STS-98:](#) **Feb. 7-20, 2001** - Space Shuttle
[Delivering Destiny](#) Atlantis delivered the U.S. Lab, Destiny, to the international space station. Atlantis' five-member crew used the shuttle's robot arm and three long spacewalks to hoist the 32,000-pound module into place on the station and activate it.

[STS-97:](#) **Nov. 30-Dec. 11, 2000** -
[Station assembly mission](#) Spacewalking astronauts gave the international space station giant "wings," greatly increasing its electrical power and making it the largest manmade object ever flown in space.

[STS-92](#) **Oct. 11-24, 2000** - During the [Station assembly mission](#) 100th space shuttle flight, seven astronauts delivered two major new components to the growing international space station, the Z1 truss and a new docking port. Both were successfully fastened to the orbital outpost with the shuttle's robot arm and four spacewalks.

[STS-106](#) **Sept. 8-20, 2000** - The [International space station mission](#) international crew of Space Shuttle Atlantis spent 12 days in orbit preparing the international space station for the arrival of the first expedition crew in late fall.

[STS-101](#) **May 19-29, 2000** - Space Shuttle [International space station mission](#) Atlantis spent 10 days in orbit repairing the international space station and preparing it for the arrival of the next module.

[STS-99](#) **Feb. 11-22, 2000** - Space Shuttle [Shuttle Radar Topography mission](#) Endeavour spent 11 days in space radar-mapping the Earth.

[STS-103](#) **Dec. 19-27, 1999** - The crew of [Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission](#) Space Shuttle Discovery spent Christmas 1999 in space, upgrading and maintaining Hubble.

[STS-93](#) **July 23-27, 1999** - NASA made [Chandra X-ray observatory mission](#) history when Space Shuttle Columbia lifted off to deploy the \$1.5 billion Chandra X-ray Observatory, the largest payload ever carried in a shuttle payload bay. At the helm was the first female shuttle commander, U.S. Air Force colonel Eileen Collins.

[STS-96](#) **May 27-June 6, 1999** - Space Shuttle [Delivery flight](#) Discovery headed for the International Space Station in May 1999 to deliver supplies for the unmanned outpost.

[STS-88](#) **Dec. 4-15, 1998** - Space Shuttle [Building a station](#) Endeavour launched from the Kennedy Space Center, delivering the second component of the International Space Station. Crewmembers Jerry Ross and Jim Newman conducted three spacewalks during the 11-day mission.

[STS-95](#) **Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 1998** - Space Shuttle Discovery spent nine days in orbit 350 miles above the Earth. The seven-member crew included a Japanese astronaut, a Spanish astronaut representing the European Space Agency, and Ohio senator and space pioneer John Glenn.

[STS-91](#) **June 2-12, 1998** - NASA's last trip to the Russian Mir space station launched June 2 and landed June 12. Space Shuttle Discovery made the trip with an outbound crew of six, and returned 10 days later with a seventh crewmember -- long-term Mir resident Andy Thomas.

[STS-90](#) **April 17-May 3, 1998** - NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia ventured into orbit in April 1998 for a 16-day flight. Aboard was a crew of seven astronauts who spent most of their time conducting neurological experiments on behalf of researchers on the ground.

[STS-89](#) **Jan. 22-31, 1998** - The first space shuttle mission of 1998, January 22 through 31, featured the eighth rendezvous and docking with Russia's Mir space station. NASA astronaut Andy Thomas -- a native of Australia -- replaced Dr. David Wolf for the final U.S. increment aboard Mir.

[STS-87](#) **Nov. 19-Dec. 5, 1997** - Columbia made the final manned space flight of 1997 starting Nov. 19 carrying a crew of six -- and a spacewalking robot named Sprint -- on a 16-day science mission. The crew tested and evaluated tools and assembly techniques for use on International Space Station missions starting in 1998.

[STS-86](#) **Sept. 25-Oct. 6, 1997** - Atlantis made its seventh visit to Mir to deliver astronaut Dave Wolfe as a replacement for Mike Foale, who had spent four months aboard the orbiting outpost.

[STS-85](#) **Aug. 7-19, 1997** - Discovery's [Testing robots,](#) crew tested a robotic arm and [CRISTA-SPAS](#) deployed the CRISTAS-SPAS spacecraft for nine days of atmospheric studies.

[STS-94](#) **July 1-17, 1997** - Columbia's crew [Microgravity science](#) went for its second mission after [reflight](#) STS-83 was curtailed because of a fuel cell. Since STS-83 has flown before, the mission numbers were changed to the next available number.

[STS-84](#) **May 15-24, 1997** - Atlantis made [Mission to Mir](#) another resupply mission to Mir, retrieving astronaut Jerry Linenger and delivering another astronaut, Mike Foale, to the space station.

[STS-83](#) **April 4-8, 1997** - Seven astronauts [Microgravity science](#) went to space on a scientific [reflight](#) research mission that was supposed to keep STS-83 in orbit through the first half of April, but was cut 12 days short by a malfunctioning fuel cell.

[STS-82](#) **Feb. 11-21, 1997** - Astronauts [Hubble servicing](#) spent 10 days in orbit upgrading and repairing the Hubble Space Telescope.

[STS-81](#) **Jan. 12-22, 1997** - 1997 started [Mission to Mir](#) with a mission to resupply space station Mir, extending the permanent American presence aboard the orbiting Russian facility.

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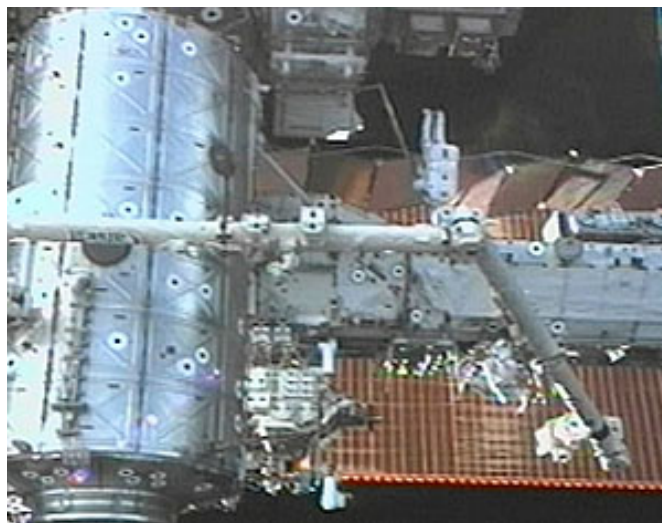
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A holiday spacewalk



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Astronaut Mike Lopez-Alegria, center top, works outside the international space station during a televised spacewalk Thursday, Thanksgiving day.

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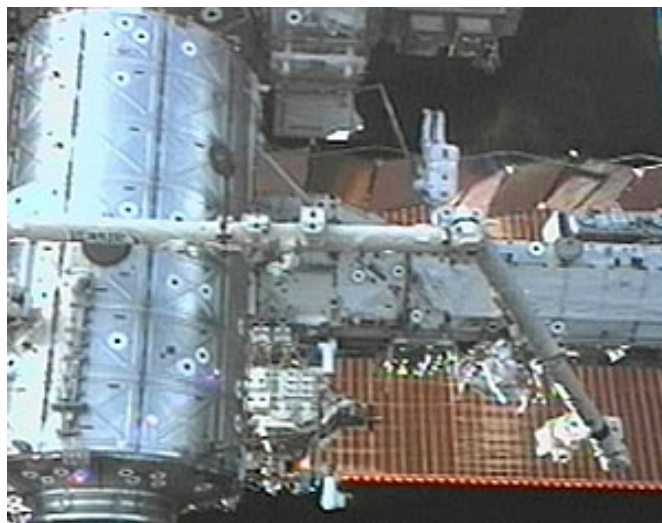
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- [**May 3, 2001:** U.S. visitor not getting in the way, Russia says](#)
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- [**April 30, 2001:** California millionaire arrives at space station](#)
- [**April 29, 2001:** Tito's Soyuz cleared for space station docking](#)
- [**April 29, 2001:** Russia says China may take part in ISS project](#)
- [**April 28, 2001:** 'Space tourist' Tito blasts off on Russian Soyuz](#)
- [**April 28, 2001:** Tito's long journey into orbit](#)
- [**April 26, 2001:** Station problems could delay Tito launch](#)
- [**April 26, 2001:** Space tourist Tito set to fly if computers fixed](#)
- [**April 25, 2001:** Millionaire gets OK to visit space](#)

- [April 20, 2001: Space station to get crew module from Italy](#)
- [April 19, 2001: U.S., Italy agree to work on space living quarters](#)
- [April 18, 2001: NASA softens stand against space tourist](#)
- [April 16, 2001: NASA wants space station publicity, but not this bad](#)
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- [April 11, 2001: Russia gives space tourist green light to stars](#)
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- [March 31, 2001: Space station crew expansion is urged](#)
- [March 21, 2001: Russia's space tourist gets NASA cold shoulder](#)
- [March 20, 2001: Fire alert jolts space station](#)
- [March 15, 2001: Editorial: Station will earn its keep as a science outpost](#)
- [March 14, 2001: Space station dodges lost tool](#)
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- [Feb. 28, 2001: Third supply ship arrives for space station residents](#)
- [Feb. 26, 2001: Russian cargo ship launched to International Space Station](#)
- [Feb. 11, 2001: Space crews enter Destiny lab](#)
- [Feb. 7, 2001: Lab makes space seem more like home](#)
- [Feb. 6, 2001: One space lab, one chance to get it right](#)
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technology

HoustonChronicle

Digital memory threatened

Joe Miller, a neurobiologist at the University of Southern California, received tapes from the 1976 Viking landings on Mars but couldn't read them to re-analyze data for signs of life. The tapes' digital formats used couldn't be read by current computer programs. As computer file formats change over time, critical information could be lost forever. **Full story.**



Associated Press

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The Homegrown PC:

Don't buy your next PC - build it! It's easier than you think, and to make the process even more painless, we've put together an **interactive tutorial.**



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Weekly Features

includes the components from the original Technology section. Each runs on certain days, Tuesday-Saturday, in the Business section. Check back several times a week to see the latest updates.

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TECH DAILY

Microsoft ordered to put Sun's Java in Windows

A federal judge today formally ordered Microsoft Corp. to distribute Sun Microsystems Inc.'s Java programming language in its Windows operating system.

Verizon told to reveal Internet song-swapper

Internet providers must abide by music industry requests to track down computer users who illegally download music, a federal judge ruled Tuesday in a case that could dramatically increase online pirates' risk of being caught.

Hantuchova gets more Web hits than Kournikova

Statistics from the Australian Open's official Web site showed that tennis fans might have found a new favorite among women's

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e-businesssuite

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Oracle and
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players in Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova.

Microsoft, Macrovision tools limit music piracy

The ailing music industry is poised to make a new push to copy-proof its music CDs, in hopes of slowing the epidemic of Internet piracy. Microsoft and Macrovision each announced new copy-protection initiatives at Midem, the record industry's biggest international conference.

Privacy questions raised in data-mining project

Possible FBI involvement in a high-tech Pentagon project that sifts through Americans' personal information raises new concerns about privacy and civil liberties, Sen. Charles Grassley said today.

ARCHIVES

- **Computing** -- Dwight Silverman's weekly computer column
- **Help Line** -- Jay Lee helps readers with their computer problems
- **Update** -- The latest patches & updates for your software
- **Hotlist** -- A list of Web sites on a different topic each week
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